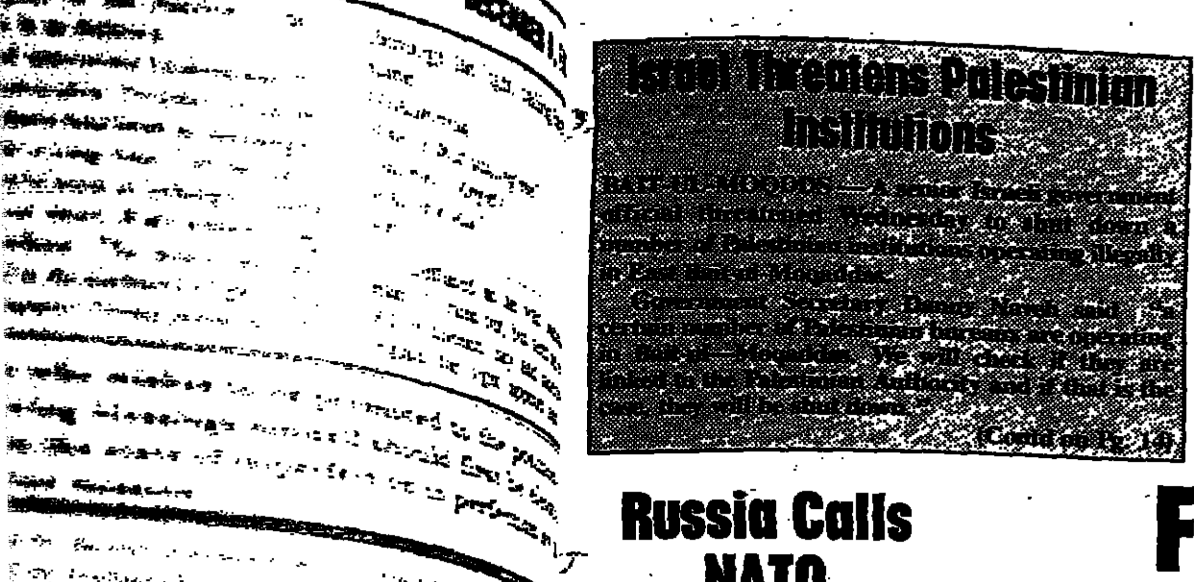


Israel Threatens Palestinian Institutions

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — A senior Israeli government official threatened Wednesday to shut down a number of Palestinian institutions operating illegally in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

Government Secretary Danny Naveh said: "A certain number of Palestinian bureaus are operating in Bait-ul-Moqaddas. We will check if they are linked to the Palestinian Authority and if that is the case, they will be shut down."

(Contd on Pg. 14)



TEHRAN TIMES

4-Page Special Issue Inside

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Qatar's Emir Meets Deposed Father

DOHA — Qatar's ruling Emir, Sheikh Hamad ibn Khalifa al-Thani, on Wednesday held talks in Rome with his father, whom he deposed last year, the official QNA news agency reported. It said the first meeting since the coup between the emir and his father, Sheikh Khalifa ibn Hamad al-Thani, was "cordial." Sheikh Hamad arrived in Rome the previous day.

(AFP)

France Warns Israel Against Housing Project

MUBARAK: WHOLE WORLD AGAINST SETTLEMENTS

Compiled From Dispatches

TEHRAN — France warned Israel Wednesday against approving an unprecedented plan to build Jewish homes in an Arab neighborhood in annexed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas, saying it could endanger the entire Middle East peace process.

Paris said the project for 132 homes, agreed by the Interior Ministry's planning and construction commission Tuesday, would breach the Israel-Palestinian accord which pledged to retain the *status* quo in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

"We hope this project does not become a concrete action. The project risks seriously calling into question the geographic composition of East Jerusalem," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt.

It would "constitute a new threat to the status quo in the city," he said, adding that the project "would be dangerous for the whole peace process and could lead to new tensions which would lead to suffering on all sides."

The project for the Ras al-Amud neighborhood, where 11,000 Palestinians live, would be the first homes built explicitly for Jews in the middle of East Bait-ul-Moqadds which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war. The commission decision must receive final approval but the minister charged with ruling on the matter, Eli Yishai of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, has said he will first consult with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Under the Oslo interim peace accords, Israelis and Palestinians agreed that the future of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the status of Bait-ul-Moqaddas would be determined in negotiations on a permanent settlement for the Palestinian areas.

Rummelhardt urged Israel "to respect the Oslo accords which provide for the status quo to be maintained in Bait-ul-Moqaddas, pending a negotiated solution over the city."

Apparently referring to the possibility of Israel approving the project and then treating it as the status quo, he added: "French authorities believe that a policy of fait accompli can only lead to a heightening of current tensions."

Meanwhile, President Hosni

(Contd on Pg.14)

Russia Calls NATO Enlargement Unacceptable

BRUSSELS - Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said Wednesday that the proposed enlargement of NATO include Eastern European states would create a "new division of Europe" and was "unacceptable."

The spoke during talks with NATO foreign ministers called to. explore possibilities for a NATO-proposed charter spelling out security relations between Moscow and the alliance.

Primakov said he was willing to discuss this charter, saying it "paved the way for very constructive negotiations", but insisted it must be long on specifics.

"It is a document that must contain not just general principles but also concrete arrangements," he said. The foreign ministers on Tuesday formally authorised Secretary General Javier Solana to launch discussions on the charter with Russia after setting a date of

(Contd on Pg.14).

Tajik Government, Opposition Agree New Cease-Fire

KHOSTDEKH, Afghanistan — Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov and Islamic leader Abdullah Nuri signed a new cease-fire accord Wednesday after holding peace talks in northern Afghanistan.

The cease-fire will take effect from midnight (1900 GMT) Wednesday, the two leaders told reporters.

The accord called a halt to all fighting in war-ravaged Tajikistan, where Islamic activists have been battling government troops since Rakhmonov's neo-communist forces toppled an Islamic-democratic coalition in December 1992. Both sides first agreed to a cease-fire in September 1994, but the truce was often violated and repeatedly renewed. The last cease-fire was due to expire at the end of this month.

Sources in the Tajik capital Dushanbe, quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency, reported fighting Wednesday in the Garm region, some 200 kilometers (125 miles) east of Dushanbe. The opposition seized the town early this month.

Nuri and Rakhmonov began their informal talks Tuesday, and agreed to hold official negotiations "without preconditions" in Moscow on December 19. They met at Khostdekh, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) from the Tajik-Afghan border.

A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by ITAR-TASS voiced hope that the Moscow meeting would be "an important stage in the inter-Tajik dialogue." It was the third meeting between the two leaders, and was organized under the aegis of the UN missions in Tajikistan and Iran, with Afghanistan's President Burhanuddin Rabbani acting as a mediator.

The signing ceremony was attended by Rabbani and Ahmed Shah Masood, the military com-

(Contd on Pg.14)

Iran Humbles Saudi Arabia 3-0

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran got to the quarter-finals of the Asian Soccer Cup yesterday when they crushed tournament favorites Saudi Arabia 3-0 in their final Group B match in Dubai.

It was a must win match for the Iranians and they secured the perfect start with an 11th minute goal. A Khodadad Azizi shot was half cleared by the Saudi defense and Karim Baqeri, lurking on the edge of the area, drove the lose ball past a helpless Mohamed al-Daeyea.

It was the first goal of the tournament conceded by Al-Daeyea.

But it was not going to be the last as Iran drove forward — Naeim Sa'davi causing all sorts of problems in the Saudi defense with his runs down the right side from deep inside his own half.

The shakey Saudi defense managed to weather the storm until the 36th minute when winger Ali Reza Mansourian managed to take the ball to the byline before turning it back to Azizi.

(Contd on Pg. 13)

Iraq Says Oil Flowing

Iraq Prevents Ekeus From Removing Missile Parts

BAGHDAD - Iraq's Oil Minister Amer Rashid said Wednesday that Iraqi oil was flowing through a pipeline to Turkey and denied that a power failure had delayed the first crude exports in six years. "We're pumping in line with the program 'agreed" with the United Nations to export oil in return for food and medicine, Rashid told Baghdad radio.

"We are pumping quantities of crude through the pipeline in a way

(Contd on Pg.14)

KIRKUK, Iraq (December 10): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein presses a button in Kirkuk to send oil flowing through a pipeline to Turkey. Turkish officials said a power failure delayed the start of Iraq's first crude export in six years. *(AFP PHOTO)*

Levy: Concessions to Syria Over Golan Needed

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Foreign Minister David Levy declared Wednesday that Israel must give up part of the Golan Heights to have peace with Syria, clashing openly with the hardline position of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Of course it is possible to refuse to budge an inch and never resume negotiations" with Syria, Levy said in an interview on Israel Army Radio.

"But if we aspire to peace, we must admit that it is not possible to insist as a precondition that we keep the entire Golan Heights in our hands," he said.

Israel seized the Golan Heights in the six-day 1967 Mideast war and annexed the territory in 1981. Syria has made the full return of the territory its basic condition for

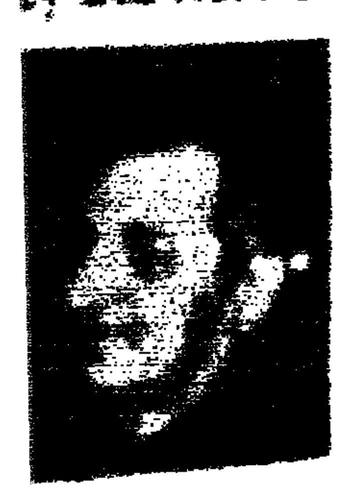
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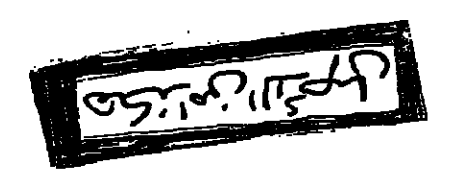
Tehran Times Photographers Bag 1st and 2nd Awards

Tehran Times photographers bagged first and second awards at the First Annual Documentary Photography Competitions of Iran.

See Page 4.

Editor





TEHRAN TIMES
TEHRAN TIMES NEWS SERVICE
Editor-in-Chief, Tel: 8809500
Editorial Office, Tel: 8810293-5
Electronic Access Tel: 8809437
8809470
Telex: 213662 TTIM IR
224569 TTIP IR
Fax No. 8808214
Address: No. 32, Koucheh Bimeh
Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa]
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
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In the Name of God

Do they not reflect that their companion has not unsoundness in mind; he is only a plain warner.
(HOLY QORAN) (7:184)

OPINION

Cease-Fire in Tajikistan Is Welcome, a Durable Solution Is Needed

The Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and Islamic leader Abdullah Nouri signed a new cease-fire accord Wednesday in northern Afghanistan.

The cease-fire calls for a halt to all hostilities. Both Nouri and Rakhmanov have agreed to hold official negotiations without preconditions in Moscow on December 19.

The cease-fire is welcome. We congratulate both sides for signing the agreement, for the cease-fire will save lives of innocents during the approaching harsh winter.

Hostilities in Tajikistan began about four years ago when Rakhmanov's neo-Communist forces toppled an Islamic-democratic coalition in December 1992. A quick look at the history of the conflict in Tajikistan shows that mere signing of a cease-fire accord is not a guarantee for restoring peace.

However, remaining committed to the terms of the cease-fire is a crucial task ahead for both parties. What is more important than the implementation of the cease-fire terms is finding a durable solution to the conflict in order to put an end to the bloodshed.

Rakhmanov's government should accept that the civil war began due to the overthrow of the Islamic-democratic coalition. By accepting the cease-fire, the Islamic forces have sent the ball into the government's court. In order to restore peace in the war-ravaged country, the government should be prepared to redress the grievances of the Islamic forces.

Rakhmanov should make up his mind before attending the December 19 meeting. If he does not give concessions to the Muslims, the civil war will be protracted.

Having been kept backward while under the Soviet Union, Tajikistan needs peace in order to bring itself out of its backwardness. With civil war continuing in Tajikistan, regional countries will automatically omit Dushanbe from their regional development plans. Moreover, foreign investors would not find it feasible to invest in a war-torn country with no peace in sight. Putting an end to the conflict in Tajikistan is as much in the interests of Tajikistan as it is in the interests of the region.

Individual Having Swallowed Opium Arrested

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — After the Law Enforcement forces of the Zone 11 in southern Tehran were informed that an individual called 'Dayee' had been hospitalized due to opium poisoning, one of their patrol units rushed to the hospital, according to the Public Relations Office of the Tehran Law Enforcement Forces.

Following investigation, it was known that the hospitalized individual was a narcotics smuggler engaged in trafficking drugs for a long time. He had packed and swallowed some 320 grams of opium, which was recovered from his stomach. The culprit was handed over to the legal authorities.

Correction

In our news item published on page 2 of our Dec. 11 issue, titled "Titanium Anodes....", the last sentence of the second paragraph should read:

These factories were spending around 2 million (not billion) U.S. dollars.

Tehran Times regrets the error.

Editor

Majlis Speaker: IRGC's Presence in Construction Arena Foiled Enemies' Plots

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Addressing a group of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) commanders and executives with the Khatam-ul Anbia (S) Construction Headquarters on Sunday, the Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri said that the Islamic Iran today is much more advanced and developed than what it was ten years ago and that the devoted Muslims are assigned to key positions all over the country.

The hojjatoleslam made the above statement at the second exhibition of the IRGC titled 'IRGC and Construction' held at Bahman Cultural Center on the occasion of the IRGC Week. The Majlis speaker congratulated the audience on the birth anniversary of Imam Hossien (AS), the Third Imam of the Household of the Holy Prophet (S), and the IRGC Week and also honored the memory of late Imam Khomeini and the revered martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, particularly the martyred IRGC commanders.



NATEQ NOURI

He added that the brave IRGC forces, through their earnest and active presence in the country's construction arena, dealt a heavy blow to the enemies' wrong assumptions that the IRGC has been formed only for war and no other activities. "The IRGC adopted the most appropriate strategy at the end of the war, which was mobilizing its competent forces in the scenes of construction and development," the hojjatoleslam stressed.

The Majlis speaker further characterized the IRGC forces as having both the constructive and military capacity, adding that the brave IRGC forces disproved the enemies' suppositions that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be able to achieve independence in the near future.

Sudan Calls For Continuation of Iran's Mediation

TEHRAN — Sudanese State Minister Mostafa Osman in Jakarta Tuesday urged Iran to continue its mediation efforts between Kampala and Khartoum until settlement of their disputes.

Osman made the request in a meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran who is currently in Indonesia attending the ongoing ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Referring to Iran's important role in Africa, he thanked Tehran for mediating between Uganda and Sudan.

Osman further stressed that Khartoum is fully committed to the agreement signed with Kampala through Iran's mediation.

Terming U.S. hostile policies towards Sudan as unjustifiable, Osman said through such pretexts the U.S. demonstrates its enmity towards the world of Islam.

Iran favors establishment of peace and tranquility in various parts of the world, said Velayati adding that a delegation is to be dispatched to Uganda shortly to assess implementation of the articles of Tehran agreement on settlement of disputes between Uganda and Sudan.

Condemning hostile policies of the U.S., the Iranian foreign minister said that Washington and Tel Aviv follow a well coordinated policy in their campaign against Islam and Muslims.

The two ministers also discussed issues and problems of the world of Islam and expansion of relations among Islamic countries.

In another development, Foreign Minister Velayati discussed Tehran-Rabat ties and issues of the world of Islam with Moroccan Minister of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs Abdelkabir Alaoui Medaghri in Jakarta on Tuesday.

Stressing the importance Rabat attaches to promotion of ties with Tehran, Alaoui said Moroccan officials are determined to upgrade and broaden ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The two sides welcomed increased cooperation between the two countries at international level in the recent years and said this will help further consolidate Tehran-Rabat relations. (IRNA)

Muslim Women Parliamentarians Visit Majlis

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Participants in the First Council Meeting of the Organization of the Muslim Women Parliamentarians paid a visit to the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) on Wednesday.

During the visit, the women parliamentarians from seven Muslim countries were familiarized with the law making process in the Majlis in Iran.

She added that Iranian women parliamentarians leave no stone unturned to enhance the status of women in the society.

She also said that Iranian women parliamentarians play a crucial role in the process of law making, adding, since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution Iranian women have proved that they are capable of having active roles in political, economic and social fields.

Another woman participating in the meeting, Mah Tal'at Nasim from the Organization of Muslim Women Parliamentarians said, that the prime objectives of the organization include settling women problems and assisting them to restore their real rights.

She called on the OIC member states to join the OMWP.

Boroujerdi Confers With Turkish Premier

ANKARA — In a meeting here Tuesday with Turkish Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, discussed bilateral ties, latest developments in the region and the imminent visit of President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to Turkey.



BOROUJERDI

Conveying the warm greetings of the Iranian president, the deputy foreign minister stated that all the agreements inked between Iran and Turkey during his (Erbakan's) visit to the Islamic Republic last August were being effectively implemented.

He told the Turkish prime minister that big strides would further be taken in the direction of boosting cooperation between the two countries during the forthcoming visit of President Rafsanjani.

Boroujerdi further elucidated on the new avenues of cooperation in the educational and industrial areas which could be attained between the two countries as these two big Islamic nations were complimentary to each other in those fields.

He also indicated that the vast resources and innumerable potentialities that existed in Iran and Turkey, could be tapped to the optimum within the framework reached between the leaders of the two countries.

Prime Minister Erbakan, expressing pleasure over the imminent visit of President Rafsanjani to his country, stated that Tehran and Ankara needed to promote and adjust bilateral relations to such a level that it would serve as a model for the Islamic world and the countries of the region.

The Turkish premier said he saw the need for the promotion of cooperation in the Islamic world based on a coordinated plan, adding that Islamic countries with high potentiality and in possession of technology needed to coordinate their plans to fully benefit from its potentialities and create a joint production plan which would be complementary to each other.



ERBAKAN

Referring to the 10-nation ECO, Erbakan believed that the Economic Cooperation Organization needed to adopt wide scale changes, lower tariffs and work on expansion of trade exchange between the member countries.

He expressed his preparedness to work with Islamic Iran in resolving crises in the region, specifically those of Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Erbakan then talked about Turkey's willingness to continue expanding its relation and cooperation in the area of the gas pipeline project, and boosting of its oil and electricity purchases from Iran despite strong objections coming from some countries.

Boroujerdi, in a separate meeting with Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister, Ali Toykan, discussed issues related to bilateral relations. (IRNA)

Turkish Professors Call On Renowned Iranian Philosopher

ANKARA — Professors of philosophy, history, geography and linguistics of Ankara University here on Tuesday met with famous Iranian Philosopher Mohammad Taqi Ja'fari at the Iranian Culture House here.

In the meeting, the Turkish professors exchanged views on philosophical issues, the place of philosophy in modern Turkey and the philosophical reflection of the Turkish philosophers.

Ja'fari, who is considered as a great philosopher of the Islamic world, is here to attend the commemoration ceremony of Mawlana Jalal-ud-Din Roumi, the famous Persian mystical poet of the 13th century and the author of the book 'Mathnavi'.

Ja'fari, the author of a voluminous commentary on Nahj-ul-Balagha —the collection of Imam Ali's (AS) sermons, letters and maxims— is the author of several philosophical works, and has held debates with Western thinkers including Bertrand Russel and Jean-Paul Sartre.

Roumi, was born in Khorasan in the city of Balkh (in present day Afghanistan) and died in the Anatolian city of Konya (in present day Turkey), where his father settled after escaping the Mongol invasion of the eastern Islamic lands.

A week-long commemoration ceremony of Roumi is to start on Wednesday at the sprawling mausoleum erected and enlarged over his grave by successive Seljuqid and Ottomon sultans over the past centuries.

Roumi is also credited with the founding of the Moulviyeh order of dervishes.

(IRNA)

Cemetery Portrait Thief Arrested

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A person stealing portraits fixed by the graves at Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery in the south of Tehran was arrested by the Law Enforcement forces in Rey district, according to the Public Relations Office of the Tehran Law Enforcement Forces.

The thief used to steal and sell the portraits. He was handed over to the legal authorities.

Iran Sets 1997-98 Budget on Oil Prices Below Current Levels

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran has based its budget forecasts for the next fiscal year starting in April on oil prices of 17.40 dollars a barrel, well below current levels, Vice President Hamid Mirzadeh said on Wednesday.

Iran expects to receive 17.7 billion dollars in oil revenue that year, Mirzadeh, also director of Iran's Planning and Budget Organisation, was quoted as saying by the *Hamshahri* newspaper.

The price of Brent crude on the London market fell below 23 dollars on Wednesday after Iraq began pumping oil for the first time in six years but is still at least six dollars higher than it was one year ago.

For the past two months, oil has been holding above 22 dollars per barrel, levels not seen since the Persian Gulf War in 1990-91.

Mirzadeh said oil prices for the first eight months of the current fiscal year averaged 18.8 dollars, compared with the budget forecast of 15 dollars.

He also forecast that inflation would be brought down to 17 percent next year from an estimated 25 percent this year and 60 percent in 1995.

Last month, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani presented a budget for next year that increases spending by 35 percent, and said it would not be affected by U.S. economic sanctions against Tehran.

The state's projected budget for the year beginning April 1997, is 81.287 trillion rials (46.5 billion dollars), while the general budget which includes banks and public companies is projected at 188.149 trillion rials (105 billion dollars), also a 35 percent increase over last year.

Oil earnings will provide 41 percent of state revenues and taxes 25 percent with the remaining 34 percent derived from other non-specified sources.

Another Tanker Joins Fleet of NITC

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A new 300,000-ton oil tanker joined the fleet of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) this week, it was announced here Wednesday.

An informed source added that with the launching of the new tanker, the capacity for loading oil at Khark Island increased to 3,818,754 tons a day, IRNA reported.

The new oil tanker is the last of the five tankers ordered to South Korea by the Islamic Republic, the source added.

17 oil tankers with varying capacities are currently operating in the NITC fleet.

Japan Calls For Global Rules on Investment and Competition

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Japan urged its global trading partners Tuesday to bring overseas investment and government policy on fair business competition under world-wide trading rules.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda called on member countries of the World Trade Organization to start work on the issues, possibly in the form of a study group, an AP dispatch reported.

Investment and competition are two new areas of liberalization that ministers from 128 countries are discussing at the WTO's first ministerial conference this week.

The highlight of the talks is expected to be an information technology pact that would scrap tariffs on computers, software and other related products, bringing down consumer prices.

The so-called Quad Countries, the United States, European Union, Japan and Canada, were due to meet over lunch Tuesday to try to iron out differences over the pact.

The United States has criticised the EU for trying to link the technology deal with success in other non-related issues. The two trade partners are also at odds over the types of products they want covered.

The EU is calling for fiber optics, photocopiers, graphics display tubes and capacitors to be included in the deal. It doesn't want movies or sound recordings on discs included, but the United States does.

Both sides said some progress had been made at a two-way meeting Monday but more work still needed to be done. They declined to make any comment to reporters after a second head-to-head discussion early Tuesday.

The entry of China into the WTO is another issue due to be taken up by the Quad Countries at their lunch meeting, which was to be hosted by EU Trade Chief Leon Brittan.

Brittan hopes the four will agree to a unified approach and not let China play one off against the other.

Brussels is proposing that China, which will have to change its economic regime significantly to comply with WTO rules, make a down payment of trade concessions at the start and commit itself to phased changes over time.

Addressing the conference, Japan's Ikeda said that he believes it is "appropriate to start with an educational process" on investment and competition issues.

Japan and Canada, who are pushing the issue at the conference, say the current system whereby each country has different regulations on investment was too confusing and uncertain for investors.

They argue that investment would grow worldwide if global rules were applied. They also say fair competition between businesses could be assured under such rules.

But developing countries like India and Malaysia strongly oppose even the establishment of a study group in the WTO.

Many poor nations worry that such a move would lead to global rules which remove their power to direct domestic investment where they want.

Japan is hoping that at least some members will reach a basic accord on investment and release a ministerial statement on the issue at the end of the Singapore meeting this week.

Such a statement would be released separately from a planned broader ministerial declaration to cover overall WTO topics.

One senior official for the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Japan and Canada cohosted a meeting of senior officials to discuss the investment issue on Monday, which was attended by 14 nations, including the United States and the European Union.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Members Meet

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The eighth plenary meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of Members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABEC) opened in Tbilisi yesterday and was attended by representatives from the parliaments of eleven states and observers from some countries.

The opening ceremony was attended by Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze and Speaker of the Russian State Duma Gennady Seleznyov, who is concurrently vice-chairman of the PABEC, an IRNA-ITAR-TASS dispatch reported.

In his speech of greetings to the meeting participants, the Georgian president noted the great role played by the PABEC in the effort to promote closer relations between the countries of the Black Sea region.

Seleznyov was expected to address the meeting in afternoon. The Duma speaker is currently paying an official visit to Georgia.

Singapore Fitting Place for Trade Meeting

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - In choosing Singapore for its first ministerial meeting, the World Trade Organization could hardly have picked a more appropriate place.

A city-state of only 3 million people, Singapore promotes free trade and investments - the backbones of WTO's principles.

Singapore, where the five-day gathering opened Monday, is the seventh biggest trading nation in the world, AP reported.

"We have to be an open economy. We are small and have to be trade-oriented. Otherwise, we will perish," says Koh Foong Yin, chief economist at the Overseas Union Bank.

The island republic has no natural resources except a strategic situation on a maritime crossroads and the skills of its population.

It depends on an efficient electronics manufacturing sector, skilled labor and smooth air and shipping links to deliver goods to the United States, European Union and Asia.

Singapore offered to stage the first WTO meeting during the signing of the Uruguay Round trade accords in Marrakesh, Morocco, in 1994.

It faced initial opposition from then U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor because of a row over the flogging of American teen Michael Fay for vandalizing cars.

Singapore pressed ahead with its successful bid. The U.S. State Department later said Kantor was expressing his own view, rather than that of the Clinton administration.

Telekom Malaysia to Relaunch Emartel

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Private telecommunications company, Telekom Malaysia BHD, will relaunch its recently acquired Emartel Mobile Telephone Service by year end, its chief executive Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali said. We will launch the service real soon with a new name and logo, he told Bernama Wednesday.

Telekom Malaysia bought Emartel from Malaysian Resources Corporation BHD (MRCB) for $256 million, reportedly to enable it to build a larger presence in the cellular phone market.

Mohamed Said said Emartel was to be renamed in-touch but the name had already been registered by another party. Hence, "we have to find another name for the service," he added.

Since taking over Emartel, Telekom Malaysia has said it would invest some $200 million over the next three years to upgrade and expand the Personal Communications Network (PCN).

Bangla President Hails Iran's Remarkable Progress

DHAKA — Bangladesh's President Qazi Shahabuddin Ahmad said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved remarkable progress in the political, economic and industrial areas despite the negative propaganda and the machinations of enemies.

Shahabuddin Ahmad made the remarks in a meeting here Tuesday with the outgoing Iranian Ambassador to Bangladesh Mahmoud Bayat.

Referring to the two countries' historical, religious and cultural commonalities, he emphasized on further promotion of bilateral relations. (IRNA)

Iran, Malaysia Share Deep Cultural Bonds

KUALA LUMPUR — The Malaysian Minister of Culture, Art and Tourism, Sabbaruddin Chik, here Wednesday said that common cultural ties between Iran and Malaysia pave the way for exchange of views and experiences as well as expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

He made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Iranian Deputy Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister for Artistic Affairs, Abolqasem Khoshroo Wednesday.

Both Iran and Malaysia are working on constructive artistic programs to promote culture, to guide youths and to solve social problems, said the Malaysian minister.

Meanwhile, Khoshroo said that the enthusiasm and interest demonstrated by the Malaysians towards Iranian traditional music performed at the International Music Festival of Malaysia speak of cultural bonds between the two nations. (IRNA)

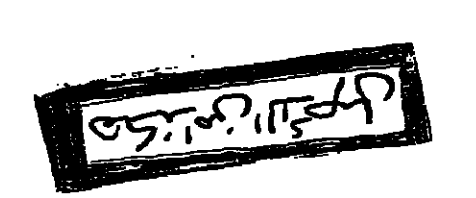
Iran Air to Increase Number of Flights to Jeddah

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iranian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Hojjatoleslam Nouri Shahrudi in a meeting in Jeddah with Head of the Saudi Presidency of Civil Aviation (PCA) Ali Abdar-Rahman al-Khalaf, exchanged views on increase of number of Iran Air flights to Jeddah.

In the meeting, the two sides took into account the number of Iranian pilgrims to the holy Ka'ba in Mecca and the Prophet's shrine in Madina, with Al-Khalaf agreeing to provide more services at Jeddah airport in order cope with the increase in the number of Iranian passenger flights.

The two officials also exchanged views on starting a weekly non-stop cargo flight between the two countries.



Tehran Times' Photographers Bag First and Second Awards

Abbas Kowsari, the first prize-winner receives his award.



Abbas Takin, the second prize-winner receives his award.

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The First Annual Documentary Photography Competition of Iran held in the Islamic Propagation Organization's Andishe Hall, granted Tuesday prizes for the selected photographers in four sections.

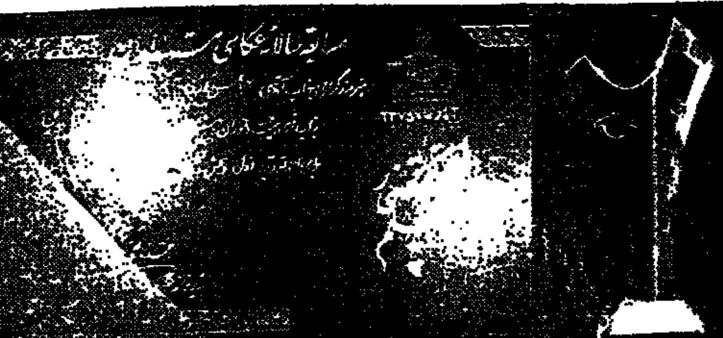
The competition included sections namely social documentary, news documentary, signs of life and special.

The first winners received statuette of competition, certificate of honor as well as a Rls. 3,000,000 of bonus, whereas the second and third winners received 2 and 1 million respectively plus the statuette and the certificate.

Abbas Kowsari and Abbas Takin, *Tehran Times'* photographers won the first and second prizes respectively in news documentary section. Asghar Bakhteyari and Hamed Ghassemi stood third and fourth respectively in the same section.

It should be mentioned that the judges of the competition recognized no one as qualified for the first prizes of the other three groups. Seyed Fathollah Abedi and Seyed Abdolvahid Yousefi shared the second prize for social documentary section and Seyed Hossein Safi and Seyed Hossein Nasrollahi shared the third prize in this section.

In the section of signs of life, Mohammad Ahmadi and Peyman Houshmand baged the second prize and Hamed Ghassemi stood third.



Also some photographers in the other three sections were appreciated by the board of judges.

Daily Food for Thought

On Accomplishment

Something attempted,
something done,
Has earned a night's repose.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW,
The Village Blacksmith

Supplication of Kumayl

(6)

So Yours is the argument against me in all of that
and I have no argument in what Your destiny
put into effect through me therein;
nor in what Your decree and Your
tribulation imposed upon me.
Now I have turned to You, my Allah,
after my shortcoming
and my immoderation toward myself,
proffering my excuse, regretful,
broken, apologizing,
asking forgiveness, repenting,
acknowledging, submissive, confessing.
I find no place to flee
from what occurred through me,
nor any place of escape
to which I may turn in my affairs,
other than Your acceptance of my excuse
and Your entering me into
the compass of Your mercy.
O Allah, so accept my excuse,
have mercy upon the severity of my affliction
and release me from tightness of my fetters,
My Lord, have mercy upon
the weakness of my body,
the thinness of my skin and
the frailty of my bones.

POTSDAM, Germany (Dec. 7): Undated reproduction of the Caspar David Friedrich painting "Ansicht eines Hafens" (View of a Harbor), which was stolen early from the Charlottenburg Castle in Potsdam-Sanssouci. The painting from 1815, one of the better known works of the German Romantic master, is estimated a value of several million marks, said police in Potsdam. The painting is the property of the Foundation Prussian Castles and Garden Berlin-Brandenburg. Although the thieves activated the alarm system when breaking through a window of the Charlottenburg Castle, the alerted guards came too late to catch them.

(AFP PHOTO)



The Meenakshi Temple of Madurai



Madurai is veritably the most ancient and sacred city of south India and vies with Varanasi in antiquity and a continous religious tradition. Madurai was thriving when the Augustans *ruled over Rome in c.* 25 B.C., a fact testifed by the coins found in excavations indicating the existence of Roman colony in the neighborhood. The Pandyan rulers held sway over the southern part of the country until the 14th century A.D. when Madurai was virtually the haven for peots and shcolars. The Nayaks who ruled over Madurai for nealy two hundred years left their imprint on everything from literature to architecture. The tall *gopurams* of Madurai temples testify to the illustrious heritage of the city, considered to be the abode of the Indian's Shiva who, according to mythology, spread nectar to protect the city perenially.

Not all Madurai history is mythological. The river Vagai has yielded megalithic finds and Roman coins. Excavations have exposed burial urns of the 3rd, 4th and 5th centuries B.D. In the *Mahabharata*, a Pandyan prince is mentioned to have attended the *swayamura* of Draupadi. Sahadev, the youngest of the Pandava brothers, defeated the Pandyas. The word Pandya itself is surmised to have originated from pandus of the Mabaharata.

The Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple at Madurai is dedicated to Parvati, Lord Shiva's consort, herein worshipped as Meenakshi, the fish-eyed goddess. In the dark sanctum of the goddess, the diamond on the nose-ring dazzles in the flickering light of the oil lamps.

The Meenakshi Temple

(Contd on Pg.14)



(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAN...

Azizi slipped the ball to the unmarked Ali Daei who made no mistake.

The stunned Saudis tried to come back but the momentum was in Iran's favor.

The Saudis, who have already clinched the group, did not share the hunger of the Iranians who played like men prepared to die if necessary.

Their ferocious determination was underlined by Daei who left the field in the final minutes of the first half to be treated. His stiches — applied to a head wound following Iran's bitter match against Iraq at the weekend — burst open.

Saudi hopes of getting their act together in the second half lasted all of two minutes - that was how long it took Iran to make it 3-0 and put the result beyond doubt.

It was a brilliant individual effort by Azizi who jinxed past three Saudi defenders before cooly slotting the ball past Al-Daeyea.



ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (December 10): South Korea defenders Yoo Sang Chul (C) and Park Kwang Hyun (L) trying to stop Kuwaiti forward Jamal Abdul Rahman (R) during their Asian Cup Group A match at Al-Ain Stadium. Kuwait defeated South Korea 2-0 and qualified for the quarterfinals. (AFP PHOTO)

SPORTS SUMMARY

Tehran Times Service

Ronaldo Pledges Future to Barca

BARCELONA: Brazilian star Ronaldo has pledged his future to Catalan giants Barcelona until at least 2006, after the club reached an accord with the player's entourage.

A spokesman for the 20-year-old striker, Giovanni Branchini, told as that "we have reached a satisfactory agreement, but we will not be releasing the details."

UAE Stagger Into Asian Cup Quarterfinals

ABU DHABI: An unimpressive United Arab Emirates qualified for the Asian Cup quarterfinals when they beat Indonesia 2-0 in their final Group A match here on Tuesday.

Goals from Hassan Ahmed and Adnan al-Talyani ensured that it was the end of the adventure for Indonesia, who were playing in their first ever Asian Cup finals.

South Korea Suffer Severe Blow to Asian Cup Hopes

ABU DHABI: South Korea's Asian Cup hopes recieved a severe set back here on Tuesday when they were beaten 2-0 by Kuwait in their final Group A match.

The Koreans, who started as one of the tournament's favorites must now await the outcome of Wednesday and Thursday's Group B and C matches to see if they advance to the quarterfinals.

Kuwait earned their win with goals from Al-Houwaidi and a brilliant solo effort from Bashar Abdulziz.

Abdulziz collected a through ball to sweep past two Korean defenders before slipping the ball over the sliding Kim.

AFC Attempt to Defuse Row Over African Referee

ABU DHABI: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) attempted to play down a potential political row with African football officials on Tueday after Ugandan referee Charles Massembe was reportedly banned from taking any further part in the Asian Cup finals.

Massembe was highly criticized for his handling of the highly charged United Arab Emirates — Kuwait clash.

Kuwait, who lost the match 3-2 after being 2-0 ahead, accused Massembe of incompetence when he failed to sent off a UAE player for a professional foul.

Under FIFA rules a player who commits a professional foul must be shown a red card.

When it was leaked that Massembe would take no further part in the tournament AFC officials quickly issued an official denial.

In a statement the AFC said that Massembe had a 'leg injury' and would be unable to take part in any further matches.

But a senior AFC official admitted to AFP that Massembe had indeed been dropped from the rest of the tournament because of his poor performance.

Futre Announces Finish of Career

LISBON: West Ham's Portuguese international midfielder Paulo Futre on Tuesday announced he was quitting the game following a series of knee injuries.

The 30-year-old Futre, once labeled the European Maradona, joined the Hammers on a free transfer from AC Milan in the summer, but has hardly appeared in the premiership after months trying to recover from three knee operations.

Futre, who won 41 caps, made his name with Porto, with whom he lifted the European Cup in 1987 following a 2-1 win over Bayern Munich.

Injury Drama Hits Italian Rugby

MILAN: Italy is set to introduce an age limit of 20 for first division rugby, after a 17-year-old narrowly avoided paralysis at the weekend.

Massimiliano Sicali, a hooker with Amatori Catania, suffered neck injuries in a scrum after just three minutes of their Serie A-1 match at Rovigo on Sunday.

He initially lost all feeling in his right leg and arm. But after a successful three-hour operation overnight, the high school student was able to move all his limbs and chat to visitors in hospital on Monday.

However, the incident has sent a shockwave through Italian rugby just as it is achieving international recognition, and has also sparked a bitter controversy within the club.

Rugby Federation President Giancarlo Dondi said: "We must have an age limit to avoid any accidents which could have devastating consequences for anyone in the front row.

"At senior level, we must not have juniors of under 20. Mario Lodigiani, who is on our technical committee, will put forward proposals on this after seeking the advice of medical experts."



LAS PALMAS, GRAN CANARIA, Spain (December 10): India's Viswanathan Anand (L) moves a piece as Russian Anatoli Karpov (R) looks on during the second day of the "Gran Canaria 96" World Tournament of Chess, here. (AFP PHOTO)

Cambridge's Singer on Right Note

LONDON: Cambridge University center Matt Singer scored 13 of his side's 23 points at Twickenham on Tuesday to defeat rivals Oxford University 23-7 in the 115th varsity match — their third successive win.

Oxford had opened the scoring with a try from Australian center Trevor Walsh, which was converted by James Averis.

It was an emotional opening for an Oxford side which had been devastated by the death of their outstanding Australian center Ian Tucker, who died from head injuries sustained during a game with English first division side Saracens.

In a savage twist Singer, the man who destroyed Oxford's dreams of winning the game for Tucker, plays for Saracens as well.

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

Skills of Kung Fu

What Is Kung Fu?

(Part 18)



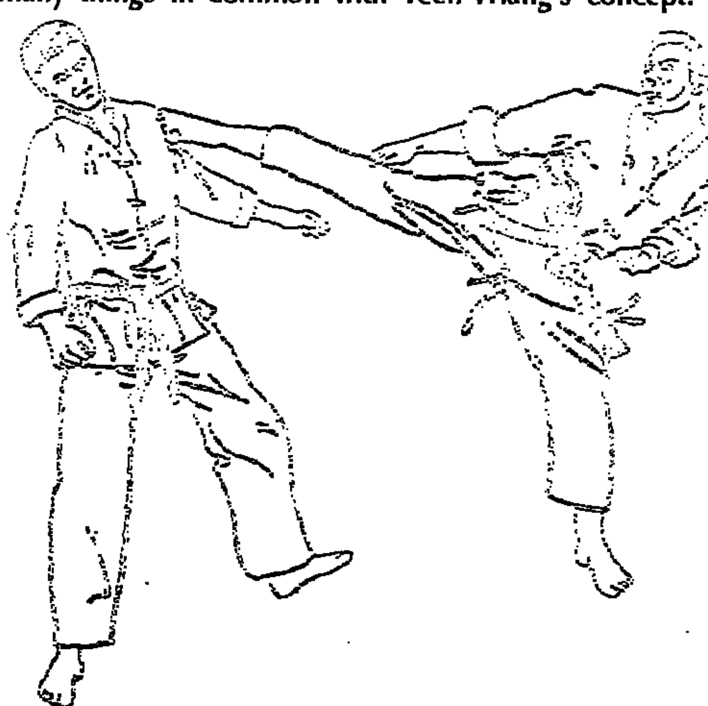
The dangerous stunts mentioned in last part are the outcome of tens of years of practice and experience. So, the trainees should not try to jump from third floor after a 3-week breath practices. We should learn standing in order to walk, walking in order to run, and keep running in order to become a real runner.

Hence, a kung fu trainer should develop his trainees' potential power and energy. The know-how of applying the power in our daily life — which is much more important than achieving fame — is the objective. Nobody can teach you Chee-Eye's natural manner or how to control it. You should study its principles before practicing and your progress depends on your own efforts.

Yeen-Wiang - Soft and Hard Classes

The readers interested in Asian philosophy and culture will get familiar with terms of 'Yeen-Wiang' enjoying great importance in kung fu. The main reason is nothing but the historical common characteristics between these arts and Chinese and Buddhistic manner. Yeen-Wiang's symbol has been known worldwide as a circle with one half black and one half white which combine with each other and create a complete harmonious one.

Internal and external (soft and hard) systems of kung fu have many things in common with Yeen-Wiang's concept. In



addition, Yeen can be the manifestation of whatever exists in the universe like nobility, nightly pondering, concentration and Wiang completes itself. The majority of Eastern religions and philosophies aim at creating balance among day, night, and nature. Therefore, the Chinese martial arts have been naturally divided into two traditional internal (soft) and external (hard) systems. None of them have priority over the other.

These two systems in many methods of kung fu are considered as equal and some of them gives priority to one them — usually soft system. The trainee will surely get familiar with both systems when he is learning their principles on facing with problems. For instance, the direct defense against the rival's strokes will be meaningless when one can blow. The maximum point of martial arts one can reach is soft against hard and vice versa. The power of organs and fists firstly seem terrific and surprising until you observe a kung fu master's strong movements.

In general, the internal and external systems should not be regarded as fixed indices of power and skills.

هكذا من الأصل

BEIRUT, Lebanon (December 10): Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri (R) meets with European Union special envoy to the Middle East Miguel Angel Moratinos. Moratinos ended his missionin in Beirut to revive the peace process between Israel and Arab neighbors which took him to Israel, Gaza, Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

(AFP PHOTO)

European Parliament Urges Serbia to Respect Election Results

STRASBOURG — The European Parliament on Wednesday called on Federal Yugoslavia to respect local election results, adding its voice to mounting international criticism of the cancellation of opposition victories in key towns.

In a resolution adopted on Wednesday European deputies asked the EU council of minsiters to "continue to refrain from extending preferential measures to the fry (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) until the Serbian authorities truly commit themselves to free elections and freedom of the press."

More than 20,000 students, blowing horns and banging drums, marched through downtown belgrade on the 23rd straight day of protest against the cancellation of the November 17 local polls.

The opposition together coalition won control of 15 of Serbia's 18 biggest towns to the opposition, including the capital Belgrade, until some of the results were overturned by the country's top court. European commission President Jacques Santer said the body would not include Serbia in countries in the region that will benefit from preferential trade measures. European deputies also urged the council to cease developing relations between the European Union and the fry and to avoid lifting "the remaining sanctions as long as Serbia fails to assist the arrest of known war criminals."

The European Parliament has further asked member states "not to repatriate refugees, particularly army deserters, as long as normal living conditions are not fully guaranteed."

The body also expressed its "solidarity" with the population which is "demonstrating peacefully in belgrade and throughout the fry in favor of democracy, pluralism and respect for the will of the electorate." (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

RUSSIA...

July 8-9 for a summit on admitting Eastern and Central European countries as NATO members, a process Russia opposes.

To ease Russia's objections, the alliance is promising not to station nuclear weapons in any new member states in Eastern and Central Europe. Primakov responded to this Wednesday by saying Russia remained opposed to the deployment of any NATO military infrastructure near its borders.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said Wednesday that Moscow was willing to discuss a proposed charter on relations with NATO but remained dead-set against the alliance taking in former Soviet satellites as members. "We continue to be against NATO enlargement." Primakov told a press conference after meeting with foreign ministers from NATO's 16 members.

He called the expansion "unacceptable" saying it would create new divisions on a continent still trying to heal the wounds of the Cold War.

The talks here were called to explore possibilities for a NATO-proposed charter spelling out security relations between Moscow and the alliance.

Primakov said he was willing to discuss this idea, saying it "paved the way for very constructive negotiations", but insisted it must be long on specifics.

"It is a document that must contain not just general principles but also concrete arrangements," he said.

Primakov avoided using the term "charter", as proposed by NATO, because Moscow wants a more binding document in the form a treaty.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

LEVY...

signing a peace agreement with Israel.

Levy, a relative moderate in Israel's right-wing government and a long-time political rival of Netanyahu, stressed that his personal preference would be to retain full control over the strategic heights.

And he "categorically" rejected both Syrian demands for a total Israeli withdrawal from the plateau and the previous Labor government's formula that "the depth of the withdrawal will be a function of the depth of peace" Syria was willing to accept.

But when asked if he was willing to meet Syria "half-way," Levy responded: "Yes, but this doesn't mean I am laying down an exact (withdrawal) line."

"If our goal is peace, neither party can get 100 percent of what it wants," he said.

Questioned about Netanyahu's likely response to his position, Levy said, "I can't say he has categorically rejected my stance, or that he has accepted it."

Israel's previous Labor government resumed U.S.-mediated negotiations with Syria a year ago on the principle of trading Golan territory for peace, but the talks were frozen in February amid a series of bombings. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

FRANCE...

Mubarak angrily accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday of trying to marginalize Cairo in the peace process and backtracking on a visit by the Egyptian foreign minister.

The president insisted that a visit to Israel by Amr Mussa had been agreed when Netanyahu held talks with Mussa in Lisbon last month and said he was "shocked" by Israel's change of mind.

But a senior official in Bait-ul-Moqaddas told Israeli Rradio that Netanyahu sent policy adviser Dore Gold to Cairo on Wednesday to forestall Egyptian efforts to play a high-level mediating role. "This is not the true story," Mubarak charged.

"The story started when the foreign minister was in Lisbon last month and I gave him an oral message to Mr. Netanyahu expressing my concern on what is hapenning in the region," he told an imprompt press conference. "They spent about two hours and the foreign minister and prime minister agreed upon a visit to Israel to continue helping solve the problem.

Israel Radio, meanwhile, quoted a "top Israeli diplomat" as saying the Gold visit was decided after Netanyahu rejected a request by Egypt to send Mussa on a shuttle mission between Israel and the Palestinians.

The diplomat said Netanyahu felt Egypt had been having a "negative influence" on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and was counselling him to take a hard line in the deadlocked negotiations with Israel on a Al-Khalil withdrawal.

Mubarak said he had met Arafat and then telephoned Netanyahu to discuss a visit by Mussa. "He told me could we make preparations before the visit of the foreign minister. I agreed on that, so he sent today his adviser Dore Gold," said the Egyptian president.

He voiced "shock" at the rumblings of discontent over Israeli Radio, and denied any charge that Egypt's policies were "unbalanced."

"They want us to pressure Arafat to accept their proposals, whether public opinion in Palestine accepts that or not, or whether Arafat finds it suitable or not," said Mubarak. "This will never happen."

On Al-Khalil itself, Mubarak said Israel's position was that "only two percent is left" to strike an agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from the last West Bank city still under occupation. But "The problem is still as it was. Nothing was solved. The main issues of the hot pursuit, joint patrols, the Shohad road and other issues are still the same issues," he said.

"So ... more than 80 percent of the problems are still existing and not solved," said Mubarak. He said that Egypt, the first Arab state to make peace with Israel in 1979, was "the corner-stone of the peace process. It was Egypt that started it and has paid a very high price."

"Let them show us what they can do without Egypt," the president challenged.

Mubarak also angrily rejected any charge that Egypt had changed course. "It is they who do not want peace because the atmosphere of war is perhaps useful for them." He warned that Israel would be the loser if relations were cut and launched an attack on the Zionist state's expansion of settlements in the Palestinian territories.

"The United States is against settlements, Europe is against it, the whole world is against it, but they couldn't give a damn about the world," charged the president. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ISRAEL...

"A few months ago, we warned the Palestinian Authority of this step and several of its institutions had to close in Jerusalem," he said on Israeli Radio.

Naveh was responding to Israeli radio reports that various bureaux run by the Palestinian Authority were operating in East Bait-ul-Moqadds.

The radio cited an office of the Palestinian news agency Wafa, an energy research bureau, a map-drawing office and a prisoners aid center.

Under the Oslo autonomy accords signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, all institutions of the Palestinian Authority must be based in Gaza or Jericho.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has said he intends to make Arab East Bait-ul-Moqaddas, the capital of the Palestinian state he wants to create while Israel has said Bait-ul-Moqaddas will remain its own "unified and eternal capital".

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TAJIK...

mander of Rabbani's forces, who were driven out of Kabul in late September by the Taleban milititary.

The UN chief representative in Tajikistan, Dietrich Merrem, was also present. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAQ...

that meets the quantities set by the agreement," he said.

Turkish officials said that a power failure at a pumping station in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk had delayed Tuesday's start of the oil-for-food deal. But Rashid said "there is no technical problem" that prevented Iraqi oil from flowing through the pipeline between Kirkuk to Turkey's Ceyhan-Yumurtalik terminal on the Mediterranean.

"There was no problem in the last few days, and certainly not yesterday," Rashid said.

The UN on Monday gave the green light for Iraq to resume international oil exports at 0500 gmt Tuesday.

UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said Wednesday that he had failed to persuade Iraq to stop preventing his inspectors from removing banned missile parts for analysis.

"As we could not agree on the removal (of missile parts), and as Iraq is not prepared to do it, so we agreed to disagree in the form of freezing this issue for the time being," Ekeus told reporters. The issue would be addressed again at our "next political level meeting," Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on Disarming Iraq, said before heading to New York via Bahrain to brief the United Nations.

He nonetheless described his talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and other Iraqi officials as "very good spirited and constructive.

Ekeus, heading a seven-member team including Russian ballistic missile expert Nikita Smidovitch, began a mission here Sunday to urge the authorities to stop preventing his inspectors from removing banned scud missile parts.

U.S. officials warned Iraq Friday that Washington would respond "firmly" to any provocation, but said they would not prevent Iraq from resuming its first oil exports in six years under a humanitarian deal with the United Nations.

(Contd from Pg. 4)

THE...

complex covers an area of nearly 85,000 sq.m It is virtually a city complete in itself with a maze of pillared corridors that lead to sanctums and assembly halls. Barefooted pilgrims scamper along the wet floors. Visitors linger on to look at the sculptures of *yalis*, the mythical beasts with bared teeth, rampant in awesome striking postures. These sculptured *yalis* are typical of the later day Vijaynagar style accentuating grandeur through mammoth proportions.

The *Ayirakkal Mandapam* or Hall of Thousand Pillars, adjacent to the Meenakshi Shrine, was built in 1560. It is an architectural contribution of Ariyanayakam Mudali, a minister of the earliest Nayak ruler. The exact number of pillars is 997, including the great musical pillars. The sculptures on these pillars cover a great range of human emotions and expressions, from stateliness and grace, pride and dignity, divine composure, lusty humor and earthy ribaldry. Musicians with instruments have a rare charm of their own. The thousand pillars in the hall symbolize the forest of kadamba trees where Lord Indra found the *Shivalingam*. It is now a great museum of rarest bronzes and sculptures. A magnificent Nataraja stands at the farthest end of the museum.

You enter the Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple through the Ashtba Shakti Mandapam with sculptured pillars depicting various aspects of Shakti as well as scenes illustrating miracles performed by Lord Shiva in Madurai.

The Potramaraikulam or the legendary lily tank, a creation of Indira himself — so it is believed, lies in front of the Meenakshi Shrine. In ancient pre-Christian era days of the Sangam glory, this tank served another purpose. Scripts of authors were given a water test: only meritorious work floated above the surface. The eastern and southern corridors over the tank contain some vestiges of the murals painted under the Nayak rulers. Efforts are being made to revive some original murals. The *Oonjal Mandapam* contains the swing on which the golden images of Shiva and Meenakshi are placed every Friday for the weekly *darsban* (glimpse).

The most outstanding feature of this temple is the height of its gopurams, soaring high over the cityscape. The first storey of each of these ten gateways is decorated with huge sculptures of deities, ranging between grand and grotesque in effect. Theses massive gopurams are rectangular towers, concave in profile and surmounted by hull-shaped roofs of the vesara type. The southern gopuram, the most magnificent creation of the Vijaynagar architects, is nearly 60m high, measuring 32.9m by 20.4m at the base. Built in midsixteenth century by Siramalai Sevvanthi Murthi Chettiar of a famous family from Tiruchi, the southern gopuram is really amazing for its sculptural decoration. Sometimes the visitors are allowed to climb up to the top of the tower for a spectacular view of the cluster of towers and a distant view of the two hills called *Yanai Malai* and *Naga Malai* (the Elephant and the Snake Hill) and the sluggish stream of Vagai. Madurai city is dotted with countless shrines, big and small, and the lanes are always throbbing with pilgrims and visitors from the wee hours of the morning to midnight.

Besides the great Meenakshi temple which encapsulates the spiritual fervor of Madurai, the city has other attractions too, notably the palace of the Thirumalai Nayak (1623-59). This grand structure was partly demolished by his grandson for his own palace at Tiruchy. Still the spectacular corridor with tall Roman columns and the splendid decoration in stucco stand in evidence of its magnificence. The *Swarga Vilasam* is an octagonal pavilion with a marvellous dome built without girders or rafters. It is sheer royal splendor. Many local festivals are celebrated here in the courtyard. The *Mariamman Teppakulam*, a spectacular rectangular water tank with a many tiered pavilion at the center, is the place where the annual float festival is held in January. The great Ganesha sculpture was unearthed at this site when it was being dug up for the tank by the Nayak.

Madurai has been a religious center for centuries but now it is fast turning into a populous industrial and commercial center, known for its large textile mills, automobile ancillary units and numerous small-scale industries. In the city the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial is certainly worth a visit, housed in the Tumkum Palace in Tallakulam.

WEATHER

The Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 13°C, Min. temp. 4°C

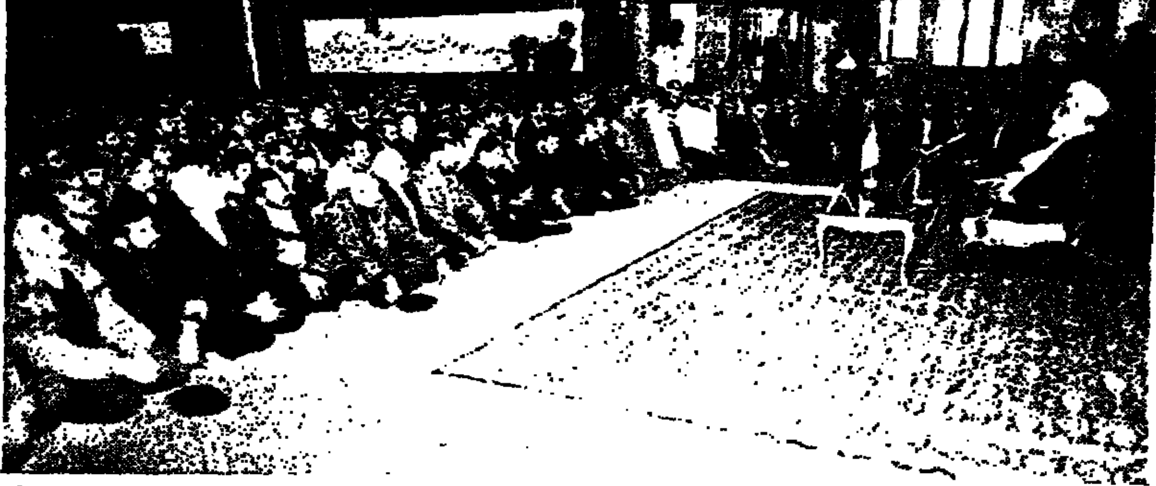
Partly cloudy with dust

Warmest Point:
Minab 29°C

Coldest Point:
Sirjan -7°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	27	Vienna	2
Istanbul	11	Moscow	1
Rome	12	Madrid	1
Athens	12	Abu Dhabi	24
London	5	Karachi	26
Paris	0	New Delhi	19
Frankfurt	2	Kuwait	24



TEHRAN (Dec. 11) : A group of athletes from the northern Province of Mazandaran call on Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri.

Iran Secure Barrier Against Drug Trafficking"

YEREVAN — The head of the Armenian Customs Administration Arjanik Abkarian said here on Tuesday that Iran is a secure barrier against drug traffickers.

Talking with the Armenian news agency 'Snark', he said that only a few drug smugglers were arrested on the two countries' border lines during the past year which indicates the alertness of the Iranian borderguards against trafficking in narcotics.

(IRNA)

SCCR Stresses Need for Implementing Leader's Instructions

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Suprme Council of the Cultural Revolution (SCCR) in its Tuesday meetging chaired by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani stressed the need for implementing the guidelines of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei. Welcoming the new members of the council, President Rafsanjani touched the guidlines of the Leader and hoped for complete implementation of his guidance with the active contribution of the new members.

During the meeting, a 15-member group was assigned under the supervision of the Curlture and Islamic Guidance Minister, Mostafa Mirsalim to survery new reforms and structure of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution.

During the meeting the council approved the by-law for the establishment of the Teachers Scientific and Educational Association.

Panama's Infamous Modelo Prison to Be Demolished

PANAMA CITY, Panama — It's been dubbed the "university of murder" and the "school of terror." At Panama's Modelo Prison, school's out for good.

The 71-year-old structure that has held 24 times the number of inmates than ever intended was being torn down Tuesday, ending what the justice minister has called "a black chapter in the history of Panama."

"The Modelo degenerated into a living example of abuse and human degradation," said Raul Montenegro, who also is Panama's interior minister.

At times, as many as 6,000 inmates slept in filthy, packed cells of a prison meant to house about 250. The lucky ones got hammocks, new arrivals slept on the floor.

Violence was rampant at Modelo, which means model, and daring escape attempts were common. At least 50 inmates died in the prison over the past five years.

At the height of Gen. Manuel Noriega's dictatorship, the Modelo also housed political prisoners. Many of them claimed they were beaten and sexually abused there.

But the prison survived, outliving years of criticism by human rights groups and a bombardment by U.S. forces when they invaded Panama to topple Noriega in December 1989.

It was one of the few buildings to escape the flames in El Chorillo, the slum where Noriega had his headquarters and which saw the heaviest fighting.

But in July, a television cameraman atop an adjoining building filmed prison guards. The footage caused a scandal that may yet lead to the guards' trial in Panama's glacially slow justice system.

President Ernesto Perez Balladares ordered the prison closed and the inmates transferred.

The government opened Modelo to the public last week. At least 15,000 people filed through as if it were a museum.

"I never thought this place was so horrible. I couldn't believe that human beings could live here," said Napoleon Giraldo, 70, after touring the prison's three floors.

Now, there is concern that other prisons in Panama could get just as bad.

Osvaldo Velasquez, president of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, said overcrowding remains a problem in Panama's prisons and the only solution is to revamp the judicial system - shortening the time it takes for a person to stand trial - and spend money on new prisons.

One new prison built for 400 inmates, "La Joyita," or "the little jewel," opened in late November to take some of the Modelo inmates. Construction there was speeded up after a July riot at Modelo.

The $2.5 million prison is in San Miguelito, a northern suburb of the capital.

But government officials have said there is little money available to keep building prisons, although they are seeking international aid.

(AP)

Iran Ahead of Other Countries in Practice of Children's Rights

TEHRAN — The UNICEF Representative, Ibrahim Jabr, told IRNA here Tuesday that he had made thorough observation and investigation on the infant rights in Iran and that he was fully convinced that the Islamic Republic of Iran has fully established the rights of children, and in practice it is one step ahead of many countries in this regard.

Jabr whose mission ended Wednesday is to leave Iran today. He said that polio malaitis has almost been eradicated in Iran and infant mortality among five-year group has been drastically reduced due to the high standard of the healthcare observed in Iran.

The UNICEF representative observed that looking back at the statistics of other countries, infant mortality has remained high and those of industrialized nations due to pollution and accident rates, the toll has remained high.

He also expressed pleasure in observing that the healthcare attendants totalling 18,000 (one attendant for every 15 families) possessed precise knowledge of the field they were rendering assistance and were providing efficient services to the people in different places. The representative also indicated that Iranian women were playing an effective role in the healthcare of the society.

Referring to unrealistic broadcast on the United States TV on the condition of the disabled children at rehabilitation centers, he expressed deep regret for the dissemination of such untrue news in the alien media. He said UNICEF was proud to observe that Iran has made great progress in the area of establishing infant rights and providing benevolent services.

(IRNA)

President Rafsanjani's Letter Delivered to Turkmen President

ASHKHABAD — Iranian Ambassador to Turkmenistan Seyed Mahdi Mir-abu-Talebi here Monday night delivered to Turkmen President Safarmurat Niyazov a message from his Iranian counterpart Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

In an interview on Turkmen TV, the Iranian ambassador said that he exchanged views with President Niyazov on Tehran-Ashkhabad bilateral cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and the trilateral cooperations involving the two countries with Ukraine and Armenia separately.

He added that the two sides also reviewed topics relating to the Iran-Turkmenistan-Russia Expert Commission which is to discuss the formation of a joint oil company.

Mir-abu-Talebi said that President Niyazov's deputies in the oil and gas, educational, health and cultural affairs, are to visit Iran soon for discussions on further expansion of bilateral ties. (IRNA)

Palestinian Students, Professors Protest in Al-Khalil

AL-KHALIL, West Bank - Some 150 Palestinian students and faculty members staged a sit-in protest here on Wednesday to demand the reopening of Al-Khalil University, closed by the Israeli authorities for the past nine months.

The demonstrators, including a number carrying signs demanding the reopening of the university, gathered peacefully outside the campus, witnesses said.

Stones were thrown at Israeli troops stationed in the streets leading to the campus to prevent more demonstrators from joining the protest, but no one was injured, they said.

Palestinian sources said the U.S. Consul General in Beit-Ul Moqaddas Edward Abington, was expected to visit the university on Wednesday.

The Israeli army has rejected student demands to end the nine-month closure and several hundred university students were barred from entering the campus on Tuesday.

The students claimed they had been promised by Israeli officers on Monday that the school would be reopened as part of an agreement that ended a day of protests at the campus.

Hundreds of students broke into the university grounds on Monday and the Israeli authorities responded by surrounding the area with paratroopers.

After mediation by officials from the Palestinian Authority, the students left the gounds peacibly in the evening with student leaders claiming Israel had promised to reopen a polytechnic school connected to the university on Tuesday and to open the university itself next week.

But the Israeli army denied any deal had been struck and said the closure order was not lifted.

Al-Khalil university, which counts some 1,700 students, was closed last March after a series of anti-Israeli martyrdom seeking attacks by Palestinian radicals which left 58 dead.

The university has been frequently closed during the Palestinian intifada uprising from 1987 to 1994 and then once more after the massacre of 29 Palestinians by a Jewish settler in 1994 in Al-Khalil's main mosque.

Some classes have continued, however, in apartments elsewhere in the West Bank city.

Israeli military officials consider the university a hotbed of activists for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) which led the matryrdom seeking bombing campaign in February and March. (AFP)

Ukraine's Kuchma Said to Have Fired Chief of Staff

KIEV — President Leonid Kuchma signed a decree on Tuesday dismissing his chief of staff, Dmytro Tabachnyk, a government source said.

"The president signed two decrees today (Wednesday). First one sacked Tabachnyk in connection with his transfer to another post. The second one stripped him of three military ranks which he got in the last three years," the source told Reuters.

Tabachnyk, 33, described by the media as 'the president's shadow' and widely regarded as one of the country's most influential politicians, has come in for sharp criticism in parliament, including several calls for his resignation since Kuchma took office in July 1994.

A parliamentary anti-corruption commission is conducting an official investigation into allegations that Tabachnyk had illegally used his position to obtain a second apartment in Kiev, an accusation he has denied.

Tabachnyk ran Kuchma's media campaign in the run-up to his election victory. The president has said he plans to seek reelection in 1999.

Reuter

India Congress Rebels Decide to Return to Party

NEW DELHI — An influential group of India Congress Party rebels who broke away from the nation's oldest party last year said on Wednesday that they had decided to return to the party's fold.

"This meeting unanimously resolves to integrate the All India Indira Congress (Tiwari) with the Indian National Congress without any conditions whatsoever," rebel party president Narayan Dutt Tiwari told a news conference in New Delhi.

The breakaway group was formed last year by Tiwari and fellow former government minister Arjun Singh following deep differences with then Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Rao, who led the divided party to historic defeat in general elections in April and May, resigned as party president in September and was replaced by Sitaram Kesri.

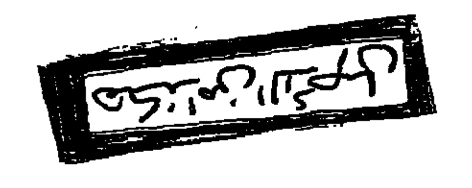
"Our decision to integrate with the Congress is an earnest effort to make Congress a predominant force in the country," Singh told the news conference.

Kesri was due to meet rebel leaders later on Wednesday, politicians said.

It said the party's merger proposal would be submitted to the Main Congress Party and the Election Commission.

(Reuter)





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Cat Call Triggers False Alarm

CAHORS – Firemen, alerted by a phonecall, rushed to the scene of a supposed fire Tuesday in Cahors, southern France – only to find that a household cat had punched their number. The cat had accidentally punched 18 on the phone, the fire brigade said.

An emergency service operator took the call early Tuesday but all they got was a mewing sound. He then tried the caller's number several times, but the line was busy.

Firemen rushed to the village of Saint Pantaleon and broke down the door of an apartment – where they found their mystery caller, mewing next to the telephone. (AFP)

Opera Actor Bites Off Wife's Nose to Save Marriage

SHANGHAI – A Beijing opera actor bit off his wife's nose during divorce proceedings in court in a dramatic bid to save his marriage, news reports said Wednesday.

The Liberation Daily and Wenhui Bao reported Xu Chengshun, an actor with a Beijing opera troupe in Shanghai, suddenly embraced his wife in court on Tuesday and bit off her nose. He hoped nobody would marry her if she was disfigured.

He was arrested immediately, the reports said.

Xu had reached an initial divorce settlement with his wife in October in the Putuo district civil court which gave her custody of their daughter. (AFP)

Fighting Near Goma Has Killed at Least 5,000

GOMA, Zaire – Fighting and massacres have killed thousands of Rwandan Hhutu refugees and local people in rebel-held eastern Zaire, aid workers said Wednesday, without being sure who was to blame. Many others have starved to death.

The bodies of at least 5,000 people, mostly civilians, have been buried in mass graves in the Goma region since the mainly Tutsi rebels launched an uprising against the Kinshasa government in October, the officials said here.

The officials said that 2,232 bodies had been discovered in addition to 2,754 reported by staff of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the rebel security chief admitted Wednesday that the guerrilla alliance has met resistance near Goma from Rwandan Hutu militia fighters and Rwandan former army troops who have allied with Zairean government forces.

The bodies reported on Wednesday included 613 men, 487 women and 415 children from Zairean villages in the Kibumba region 30 kilometres (about 20 miles) north of Goma, which lies close to the Rwandan border. They had been shot, hacked to death or burned alive in their huts and buried between November 5 and 30, the aid workers said. (AFP)

Committee of 400 Elects Post-Colonial Leader

HONG KONG – Tung Chee-Hwa, a refugee from China's 1949 communist revolution who became a shipping tycoon and pillar of the colonial order, won a crushing victory Wednesday to become Hong Kong's first leader in its post-colonial era.

Tung, tipped from the outset as Beijing's favorite, took 80 percent of the votes of a China-organized Committee of 400 Hong Kong Notables.

Tung will become chief executive of Hong Kong's semi-autonomous government when it returns to Chinese sovereignty on July 1 and Chris Patten, the last British governor, goes home. (AP)



ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (Dec. 10): Activists from the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) chant slogans against Afghanistan's fundamentalist Taleban leader during a protest rally to mark World Human Rights Day. The protesters said the day would be worthless unless the people of the world and human rights organizations concentrate on the current situation in Afghanistan and condemn the Taleban militia, which seized Kabul on September 27. (AFP PHOTO)

Doctors Correct Mother Teresa's Heartbeat

CALCUTTA – Doctors said they gave Mother Teresa a mild electric shock on Wednesday to correct her irregular heartbeat.

Dr. Patricia Aubanel said the procedure was a success, and the 86-year-old Roman Catholic nun asked afterwards if she could return home from hospital.

Doctors had postponed the procedure, called cardioversion, at the weekend so the revered missionary could regain more strength from last month's heart surgery.

Aubanel, part of an eight-member team treating the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner, said the procedure was successfully carried out at 10:30 a.m. (0500 GMT). (Reuter)

Rawlings Wins in Ghana, But Final Results Still Awaited

ACCRA – Victory was assured for Ghana's incumbent President, Jerry Rawlings, and his National Democratic Congress (NDC) following weekend elections, with the results of only eight constituencies still awaited on Wednesday.

The NDC has so far won 126 seats in the 200-seat Parliament, while John Fufuor's New Patriotic Party has 59 seats. The latest figures from the presidential poll give Rawlings 56.8 percent of valid votes cast, Kufuor 40.3 percent and Edward Mahama 2.9 percent.

The National Electoral Commission (NEC), which masterminded Saturday's polls, had hoped to declare full results by Tuesday, but now hopes to release them on Wednesday.

Although observers and opposition parties noted some irregular incidents during the polling and expressed concern over the delays in releasing results, no charges of vote-rigging have emerged.

Mahama sent a congratulatory message to Rawling on Wednesday, and Kufuor's aides said he would follow suit later in the day.

Rawlings should bear in mind that he "is president for the whole country," Mahama said in his message, adding that he hoped "you will live up to the task ahead". (AFP)

PATNA, India (Dec. 10): People search for victims of a stone-chip laden truck which overturned, killing at least 82 of its passengers and injuring 28 others. At least one hundred men and women were perched atop stone chips and boulders which the truck was transporting when it crashed. (AFP PHOTO)

Mine Explosion in Central China Kills 10

BEIJING – A gas explosion in a mine in central China has killed 10 people and injured six others, two critically, and hope was fading for 22 others who were missing, an official newspaper and a government official said.

The Yangcheng evening news said 38 people were working at the coal mine in the Xinhua district of Pingdingshan City, Henan Province, when an extremely powerful explosion occurred Dec. 2.

Lingering gas and damage to equipment and passag ways in the mine hindered rescue work, the newspaper said in its late Monday edition. As of Friday, Dec.6, 10 people were confirmed dead and six were injured, it said. "There is very little chance of survival for the 22 people who have not come out of the mine," it added. (AFP)

First Test of Strength for Candidates for Top UN Post

UNITED NATIONS – The Ghanaian head of UN peacekeeping won enough votes in unofficial balloting to succeed Boutros Boutros-Ghali, but faces the prospect of a veto that could further complicate the search for a new UN chief.

UN Undersecretary-General Kofi Annan, 58, outpolled three other African candidates Tuesday during two secret ballots within the 15-member council.

In the second round, Annan won 10 votes, one more than necessary for election. Four ambassadors voted against him - one was a permanent member, who could veto him in an official ballot.

Amara Essy, the Ivory Coast Foreign Minister, was second with seven votes for and four against, including two permanent members.

Former Niger Prime Minister Hamid Algabid and former special UN Envoy Ahmedou Ould Abdallah of Mauritania also received votes for and against, but appeared to have little chance of winning.

Council ambassadors refused to say how they voted, but it was widely believed that France was the permanent member that cast the negative vote for Annan.

France strongly supported Boutros-Ghali, whose election was vetoed by the United States. France has said it wants a French speaker as the next secretary-general. (AP)

Students Take to Belgrade Streets

BELGRADE – More than 20,000 students demonstrated in Belgrade Wednesday against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's regime, witnesses said, amid continued protests over the cancellation of local election results.

Before beginning their march, the students read out the declaration made the previous day by U.S. President Bill Clinton, which calls on his Serbian counterpart to recognize the results of municipal elections held November 17.

The students have joined the opposition Together Coalition to protest the invalidation of the poll's results, which originally gave the opposition control of the Belgrade City Council and 15 out of 18 major Serbian towns. (AFP)

Tamil Attack in Sri Lanka Leaves 58 Dead

COLOMBO – Tamil Tigers attacked a military base in eastern Sri Lanka on Wednesday, sparking fierce fighting that left at least 58 dead on both sides, officials said.

Hundreds of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas launched the assault on the Pulkunawa camp of the elite police Special Task Force (STF), defence officials said.

The pre-dawn offensive ended a two-month lull in the separatist war. "Reinforcements have gone to the area and re-established the camp, a military spokesman said. "We are now in the process of clearing the immediate vicinity of the camp."

Defence sources said 36 security personnel, a volunteer para-military home guard and a civilian employee were killed, and 39 personnel wounded. (AFP)

South Asia: Land Degradation Leads to $10 Billion Annual Loss

A recent UN study finds that almost half of the agricultural land in South Asian countries is degraded, resulting in annual economic losses of U.S. $10 billion.

PENANG: Almost half of the agricultural land in South Asian countries suffer from degradation, which is causing economic losses of at least U.S. $10 billion a year. according to a recent United Nations study.

In a report, the three UN agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) estimate the severity and costs of land degradation in South Asia.

Its conclusion was that the countries (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bjutan) are losing at least U.S. $9.8 to $11 billion annually as a result of losses resulting from land degradation on 43% of the region's total farmland.

This was equivalent to 2% of the region's gross domestic product, or 7% of the value of its agricultural output.

And yet this high enough figure is a gross underestimate, because it measures only the on-site effects (for instance. reduced agricultural production) whilst leaving out off-site effects (such as river silting, floods. landslides and road collapses).

The 1994 report, 'Land degradation in South Asia', defined land degradation as 'the temporary or permanent lowering of the productive capacity of land'.

The types of degradation it assessed were:

* Soil erosion caused by water. This was the most widespread, affecting 83 million hectares, or 25% of all agricultural land in the region. In many areas of sloping land, for example in Nepal, it is severe, causing permanent loss of the land's productive capacity.
* Soil loss caused by wind, affecting 59 million hectares, or 40% of agricultural land in the regions' dry zone.
* Soil fertility decline, due to lowering of soil organic matter and loss of nutrients, is substantial and widespread in the region. This is due primarily to the increased and incorrect use of fertilizers.
* Waterlogging, or the lowering land productivity through the rise in groundwater close to or above the soil surface. This is caused by incorrect irrigation management.
* Salinisation or soil degradation caused by increase of salt in the soil, is caused by incorrect irrigation management or intrusion of sea water into coastal soils arising from over-abstraction of groundwater. It is severe on irrigated lands of the dry zone. It reduces crop yield and in severe cases causes complete abandonment of agriculture.
* Lowering of the groundwater table, caused by over-extraction of ground-water.

The study found that altogether 140 million hectares. or 43% of the region's total agricultural land, suffered from one form of degradation or more. Of this, 31 million hectares were strongly degraded and 63 million hectares moderately degraded.

The worst country affected was Iran, with 94% of agricultural land degraded, followed by Bangladesh (75%), Pakistan (61%), Sri Lanka (44%), Afghanistan (33%), Nepal (26%), India (25%) and Bhutan (10%).

The study concludes: 'Land degradation in the region is widespread and has reached a severe degree in many areas. Environmental "disaster areas" have occurred already, for example areas of severe and extensive salinisation in parts of the irrigated Indus and Ganges plains.

'Others are predicted, most notably the sever deforestation and water erosion in the mountain and hill areas of Nepal.'

The most original and interesting part of the study is its assessment of the economic costs of land degradation. Total on-site annual losses were estimated at U.S. $9.8 to $11 billion a year, or at least U.S. $10 billion.

The breakdown according to types of land degradation was: water erosion U.S. $5.4 billion; wind erosion U.S. $1.8 billion; fertility decline $0.6 — 1.2 billion; waterlogging $0.5 billion and salinisation $1.5 billion.

These economic losses were calculated through estimating either the loss of agricultural productivity or output; the cost of replacing soil nutrients (through additional fertilizer); or the costs of land reclamation and restoration.

The study says the losses are not only suffered by the present generation but future generations. Since soils have been a resource for the past 2,000 and more years, there is no reason to doubt that people will still depend on it for at least 2,000 years ahead.

The value of today's soil resources to future generations could be estimated to be at least today's user value multiplied by 2,000.

Although the study does not attempt to measure the long-term losses of the present land degradation it has assessed, a simplified calculation (without discounting to obtain net present values) would be that these losses, if permanent and not repaired, would add up to at least U.S. $20,000 billion over the next 2,000 years!

The estimates of annual loss are understated because off-site costs (such as losses caused by river stilting, floods, landslides and so on) have not been counted.

Moreover, there are other forms of degradation, such as deforestation, forest degradation and rangeland degradation, acid sulphate formation, soil pollution, soil destruction through mining and quarrying, urban encroachment onto agricultural land and effects of war.

The economic costs of these are not assessed in the study. If they were, the losses would have been much higher.

According to the study, there are three types of factors causing land degradation in the region.

The first category comprises natural hazards, such as heavy rains and steep slopes that lead to soil erosion; soil that are strongly acidic that result in soil fertility decline and arid climates that contribute to salinisation and lowering of the water table.

The second set are direct factors that are humanly caused. These include deforestation, overcutting of vegetation, overgrazing, improper crop rotation, non-adoption of soil conservation practices, unbalanced fertilizer use, mismanagement of canal irrigation and overpumping of groundwater.

The third factor comprises what the study calls 'underlying causes of degradation'. These are the basic socio-economic structures that give rise to the director factors.

Among them are land shortage, inappropriate land tenure arrangements, severe economic pressures on farmers, poverty, and population growth.

Although the UN study covered only South Asia, its results have implications for other countries outside the region where land degradation is also a serious problem.

For instance, at a recent national enviromment conference in Malaysia, Dr. Lim Jit Sai of the agriculture department revealed that there are 18.9 million hectares of potentially degradable land in the country, making up 57% of total land areas.

According to him, the main activities causing soil degradation in Malaysia are mining, agriculture, logging and urban development.

The adverse effects of soil erosion are a loss of topsoil, decline in soil fertility, siltation of water reservoirs and waterways, increasing frequency of flash floods, degradation of water quality, loss of hydropower, damage to properties and loss of lives.

It would be most useful if estimates could be of the economic losses from soil erosion and land degradation in other countries, similar or even broader in scope than the study carried out for South Asia.

Such economic cost estimates might make it easier for policy makers to appreciate the economic folly of activities that degrade the land and erode soil.

(Courtesy World Network Features)

JAHAD TOSSE-E MANABE AB CO. (JTMA CO.)

RESUME

The Iranian companies are active participants of the 4th Water Industry Exhibition. Jahad Tosse-e Manabe Ab Co. (JTMA) is an outstanding company, active in dam construction. Engineer Kaboorani, head of the Technical Department for the central office of the company took part in an interview with the *Tehran Times* to elaborate on the activities and achievements of the company.

JTMA Co. was founded in 1987 by a group of dedicated engineers and specialists with the aim of realizing national self-sufficiency for construction of different kinds of dams (earthfill, concrete, etc.), hydropower stations, underground structures (tunnel, cavern, etc.) and irrigation & drainage network.

This company started activities with Marun Rockfill Dam Phase I, which included different operation like construction of access roads, temporary camps, access tunnels and the first diversion tunnel.

All works mentioned above were done by JTMA in a short time which created a suitable and technical view of the company. The manner and quality of the operations were such that before finishing Phase I, the owner offered construction of Phase II to JTMA Co. in 1990, which presented a huge amount of work in one of the largest dams in the world.


A tunnel under construction

This part of the project was carried out faster than the program's time schedule and so far more than 95% of the project has been completed.

One of the most complicated and important projects undertaken recently in Iran was the Second Powerhouse of Shahid Abbaspour Dam.

This double curve concrete dam, with 200m high, had been set up before and the first powerhouse in this area already generated 1000 MW/h of electricity.

The construction of the second 1000 MW power station has newly been started; and this was the time that a national company has ever attempted such a great underground excavation project. The operation includes about 550,000 m^3 of underground excavation and 550,000 of drilling and grouting plus building construction, etc. Up to now about 60% of the excavation has been done by the powerful technical team of the company.

Another project of the company is Jayezan Irrigation and Drainage Network.

This project is being carried out near the site of Marun Dam, which enables the company to make the best use of its machinery and equipment. This project includes 77 km of access roads, 45 km of class 1 & 2 canals, 21 km irrigation network and more than 250 civil technical hydro structures such as: syphons, culverts, basins, flums, spillways, weirs, bridges and others.

As a result of the company's remarkable activities, JTMA has been repeatedly invited by the Ministry of Energy to take part in several other dams and power station projects.


Marun Storage Dam: Upstream view, Behbahan, Iran (JTMA)

JTMA has been approved by UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Company) to undertake international projects; and so far it has been qualified and invited to undertake a few projects credited by the World Bank or any other international organizations. Therefore, the company is searching an opportunity to extend its field of activities and show its technical abilities outside country boundaries and as our background experience and expertise clearly demonstrates, we will prove specialized and reliable.


Water reservoir of the Marun Dam under construction

The company is qualified and graded by Plan and Budget Organization and other international organizations such as UNIDO, to take part in international projects:

In construction of:

1- Concrete and Rockfill Dams
2- Drainage and Irrigation Network
3- Hydro-Electrical Power Plants
4- Tunneling
5- Geotechnical Wroks
6- Road Construction

(JTMA CO.)

Reference Projects:

1- Marun Rockfill Dam Phases 1 & 2 — title: Diversion & Access Roads + Earth & Rokfill Dam & Powerplant. The contract amount is RLS. 4074 + 49008 million and the first phase of the project was completed in 1990, whereas the second phase will be completed in 1997.

2- Jayezan Drainage & Irrigation Network — Title: 66 km of canals and drainage. The contract amount is 15471 million rials and the project will be completed in 1997.

3- Karun-1 1000 MW Underground Power Station

4- Behdasht-Patave Road With a Length of 70km consuming 18,000 million rials. The project will be concluded by the end of 1998.

5- Shahid Abbaspour Powerhouse No.2 — Title: Tunnels, powerhouse, and transformer caverns consuming 96,898. The project will be completed by the end of 2000.

Jahad Toss-e Manabe Ab Co. is founded with the aim of fulfilling national self-sufficiency by a group of engineers and specialists.

No.30 Pardis St. Mollasadra Ave. Vanak Sq.
Tehran/Iran P.O. Box: 15115-317
Tel: 8776719-8882779-8772485
Fax: 8882780 Telex: 228036



in Europe

Terminally Ill Americans Cash in Their Life Insurance

WASHINGTON — Terminally ill Americans can cash in their life insurance in a "viatical settlement" that gives them money to better enjoy whatever time they have left to live.

"The shorter the life expectancy, the larger the settlement amount," said William Kelley, executive director of the Viatical Association of America.

Kelley is an expert in "viatical settlements", which are most frequently arranged with AIDS victims.

The unusual deal typically allows a person with a life expectancy of under six months to walk away with 80 percent of the nominal value of his life insurance. The insurer then collects the full insurance policy amount upon the death of the seller.

For a life expectancy of six to 12 months, the buyout drops to 70 percent, falling to 65 percent for 12 to 18 months.

To lure investors, insurance brokers paint an especially morbid picture of the prospective seller:

"Male, age 39. AIDS in advanced stages. Life expectancy 6-12 months. Completely disabled — receiving social security of 509 dollars per month. Food stamps of 73 dollars per month ... living in his own home, has not made a payment in almost a year and is facing imminent foreclosure," says an ad posted by Pennsylvania-based American Preferred Services (APS).

Some customers collect up to an 80 percent return on their investment, said APS investment advisor George Brown, "but I tell customers not to expect more than seven to 15 percent."

By investing in several policies, customers "have more of a chance of getting the satisfaction of early maturity," said Brown, whose company manages portfolios worth several million dollars that include foreign investors.

Brian Olivie, 36, is an AIDS patient from San Diego, California, who believes that in selling his life insurance he did the right thing.

"But I only recommend it if someone feels comfortable with it," Olivie said, noting that some people regret having "somebody gambling on their life".

Olivie said he went for a viatical settlement because his federal disability payments were low.

At the time of the settlement, doctors told Olivie he could expect to live 18 months. That was three years ago.

Olivie attributes his long survival to new AIDS-fighting drug cocktails he began taking shortly after the settlement. If the new treatment had been available at the time of the settlement, "I don't think they would have given me very much," he said. "It was a good time to sell ... they would offer me a lot less today."

Olivie said his treatment was going "very well. My T-cells have been zero for two years and now they're 250, and I have no viral load" — AIDS virus in the blood stream.

The longer life expectancy given AIDS patients — up to 30 percent longer in some cases — has prompted investors to look for insurance deals on other incurable diseases, such as cancer.

The California-based benefits advocates is planning to reach as many customers as they can by advertising in popular magazines such as Readers' Digest, said company director Nancy Cane.

"Americans don't like to talk about death and dying and because viatical settlement companies are for-profit entities," they are shunned by many people, kelley said.

"The whole concept of making a profit that's connected to someone dying seems unseemly to University, but Vickrey died the same week the prize was announced. They were recognized for their work in "asymmetric information" - transactions in which one party knows things the other doesn't.

Each prize is worth 7.4 million Swedish kronor ($1.12 million), to be divided in cases of multiple winners.

The ceremony will mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish industrialist who funded the prizes in his will. The first prizes were awarded in 1901, except for the economics prize which was established in 1968. (AFP)

Nobels Awarded to Masters of the Delicate and Complex

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — A polish poet who finds boundless passion in quiet words and an American researcher who found a scientific breakthrough in a tiny jump in a graph join eight others receiving Nobel prizes in Stockholm on Tuesday.

The laureates in literature, physics, chemistry, medicine and economics will be given their prizes by Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf in an elaborate ceremony at Stockholm's Concert Hall. The Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo, Norway.

Making an appearance before 1,800 guests and world media coverage will be a sharp contrast to the usual quiet life led by literature laureate Wislawa Szymborska. She recently said she's comfortable with people only in groups of a dozen or less.

Despite her retiring persona, her poetry can be riveting. The prize citation describes it as combining the fury of Beethoven with the elegance of Mozart. She shows a sly humor as well.

"Bureaucrats and bus passengers respond with a touch of incredulity and alarm when they find out that they're dealing with a poet," she said in her prize lecture last week.

There's some humor in the chemistry prize also. Harold Kroto of Britain's University of Sussex and Robert Curl and Richard Smally of Rice University, won the prize for Carbon Atoms bound in the shape of soccer balls.

They also look like the geodesic domes designed by visionary architect R. Buckminster Fuller, so the team named them "fullerenes." Other science wits later started calling them "buckyballs."

Fullerenes have no practical application yet, but researchers are working on using them to conduct electricity without resistance or to deliver medicine into the body.

The physics prize is shared by David Lee and Robert Richardson, both of Cornell University, and Douglas Osheroff of Stanford University, for their discovery of superfluidity in helium-3.

The discovery, which has had unexpected applications to theories about the universe's earliest moments and has opened a window into subatomic realms, came in the 1970s when osheroff was a graduate student under the other two.

He noticed a small deviation in a graph recording results of an experiment in low-temperature physics. He pointed it out to his two superiors and, instead of attributing it to a failure of the equipment, which they'd built themselves, "we were smart enough to recognize that something fundamental was going on," Osheroff said.

The medicine prize was awarded for discovering how the immune system recognizes infected cells - a finding that could lead to new vaccines and therapies for cancer, diabetes and multiple sclerosis.

The discovery was made by Peter Doherty, an Australian now working at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, and Rolf Zinkernagel of the University of Zurich, Switzerland.

The economics prize was awarded to James Mirrlees of Britain's Cambridge University and William Vickrey of Columbia many people, and yet the service that is provided and the relief that is provided through viatical settlements is a very humane and wonderful thing," he added. (AFP)



STOCKHOLM, Sweden (Dec. 9): The 1996 Nobel laureates attend a reception at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm. From left, above: British Sir Harold W. Kroto, Univ. of Sussex, Brighton; U.S. Douglas D. Osheroff, Standfor Univ., Ca; Swiss Rolf M. Zinkernagel, Univ. of Zurich; British James A. Mirrlees, Univ. of Cambridge; U.S. Robert F. Curl Jr. and Richard E. Smalley of Rice Univ., Houston, TX. Below: Australien Peter C. doherty, st. judge childrens hospital, memphis, te, USA; Polish Wyslawa Szymborska; U.S. David M. Lee and Robert C. Richardson of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. (AFP PHOTO)

U.S. Sees Possible Accord on High-Tech Tariffs

SINGAPORE — U.S. and European officials said Wednesday they had reached an understanding on several key points in negotiations overnight on eliminating tariffs on high-technology goods by 2000.

EU Trade Policy Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan said officials from the two sides had narrowed their differences on several "very important points that were a problem until now."

A U.S. official, who asked not to be named, went further than Brittan, saying that a "common understanding" had been reached in overnight negotiations.

Speaking after a brief meeting with the acting U.S. trade representative, Charlene Barshefsky, Brittan cautioned there was no final agreement. The U.S. and EU had identified "common grounds, but not a common ground," he said.

Barshefsky declined to comment after the meeting.

There was no immediate indication of the substance of the U.S.-EU understanding, but the two were known to differ over the products to be covered under the proposed information technology agreement (ITA).

Neither the Americans nor the Europeans were prepared to announce an accord on a full-fledged ita without getting the backing of 30-odd other interested countries, officials said. (AFP)

Indian Road Crash Toll Could Rise

NEW DELHI — The death toll following a truck crash near the eastern Indian city of Patna, which reportedly left 82 dead and 28 injured, could rise further, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Tuesday's accident occured when a truck carrying stones chips overturned near the town of Shahjahanpur and crashed down into a deep trench.

The Statesman daily newspaper claimed the toll was set to rise. It said eyewitnesses put the toll "well over 83" and added five of the injured were in critical condition.

Police reports, however, said only 59 people, including 27 women and eight children, were killed.

The newspaper added around 165 people were loaded on the truck at the time of the disaster. The driver of the vehicle, who survived the crash, reportedly lost control on a sharp bend while trying to avoid potholes in the road.

Most of the victims were buried in the rocks that tumbled from the vehicle, said S.K. Saxsena, police chief of Bihar.

He said the victims hitched a ride on the truck in the pilgrim town of Deogarh where they had gone to visit a Hindu temple.

Bihar State Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav has announced 2,850 dollars compensation for the families of the victims. (AFP)

U.S. Official's Bodyguard "Loses" Weapon, Can't Recall Where

MOSCOW — A bodyguard who accompanied U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry on his visit to Russia this past fall, was robbed of a gun at some time during the trip, the local press reported.

A report in the December 9 edition of the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda said that the weapon was stolen during a visit to the northern Russian city of Archangelsk where Perry and an official U.S. delegation witnessed the scrapping of a Russian atomic submarine.

The paper said that theft was not noticed until the delegation was going through a customs inspection prior to leaving Russia and that the individual from whom the weapon had been stolen could not say under what circumstances it had disappeared.

U.S. officials, however, neglected to inform Russian authorities of the theft for an entire month.

Olivia Hilton, a U.S. Embassy spokesperson confirmed the incident, but said that it has not yet been determined exactly when during Perry's visit the weapon was stolen.

Hilton also said that she had no idea why the theft had not been reported to Russian authorities immediately, but stressed the fact that the gun had been taken from a piece of luggage and that the bodyguard "was not mugged or anything like that". (AFP)

"Unabomber" Suspect Pleads Not Guilty in New Jersey

NEW YORK — Theodore Kaczynski, the suspected "Unabomber" who launched a string of deadly bombings over 18 years, pleaded not guilty Tuesday before a New Jersey federal judge, the justice department said.

Kaczynski, 54, who is held in Sacramento, California, was charged in Newark federal district court for the murder of New Jersey advertising executive Thomas Mosser two years ago.

Mosser, 50, died after a booby-trapped package sent to his home exploded in his hands. (AFP)

French Customs Seize Wreckage of Downed WWII German Warplane

YVETOT, France — French authoritie have seized parts of a German warplane shot down in June 1944 over Normandy and which was recently unearthed in an unauthorized dig, police here said.

Five Britons, a German and Frenchman had planned to take their find out of France and had already removed the body of a German pilot and the cockpit of his aircraft shot down over the village of Ecretteville-Les-Baons.

Colonel Guy Francois of the gendarmerie, showed journalists a 20mm machine-gun from the downed Messerschmitt 109 and a knife and gun belonging to the pilot.

He said customs officials were still trying to locate other objects taken from the site including a parachute, the pilot's jacket, the engine and the cockpit.

The pilot's remains had not been found, he said.

Col. Francois said legal action would be taken against those who had dug up the remains of the pilot and plane which were buried five meters (16 feet) below ground. He said German and British authorities had been informed of the affair.

The seven who belong to a group interested in finding pilots missing since the Normandy landing, came here after a witness said he had seen a german pilot come down in a field near Ecretteville in June 1944. (AFP)

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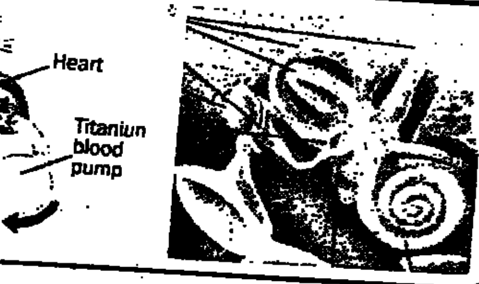
Wreckage of
Warplane

TEHRAN TIMES

DECEMBER 12, 1996







THOUGHT

Eat to live, and not live to eat.
(Benjamin Franklin)

PRAYER

Noon..
Evening..............................17:13
Dawn (tomorrow)................05:
Sunrise (tomorrow)........................

Can Multiple Sclerosis Be Cured?

Part 5

Paraplegia and Quadriplegia

Paraplegia is weakness or paralysis of muscles in the lower body caused by disease or injury in the middle or lower part of the spinal cord. If the injury is near neck, the arms as well as the legs are affected and quadriplegia develops.

Paraplegia and quadriplegia are often accompanied by pain and muscle spasms; standard treatments are opioids for the pain, baclofen and diazepam for the musclespasms. Many paraplegics and quadriplegics have now discovered that cannabis not only relieves their pain more safely than opioids but also effectively suppresses their muscle jerks and tremors. The following account by Chris Woiderski is illustrative:

In June 1989, I was 27 years old and had been working as an industrial engineer for five and a half years, selling pneumatic and automation equipment to manufacturing plants and factories. I was pretty successful at it. I had used cannabis off and on for several years to relax. After a long hard day I would go home, have dinner with my girl friend, smoke some cannabis, and unwind. I usually spent eveings in my home office, and I found that smoking cannabis not only relaxed me but helped me concentrate on my work.

I would sometimes think that things just couldn't get any better for me. I had a good job, made excellent money, and lived with the woman I was going to marry in a few months.

Then, in June 1989, I suffered an accidental gunshot wound.

I was rushed to a hospital and wheeled into surgery. I awoke the next evening in a semi-coherent state, feeling the pain from tubes in my chest and throat. After ten days in the intensive care unit (ICU), a neurologist told me there was nothing he could do for me.

Although the bullet had missed my spinal cord, swelling had left me permanently paralyzed from the chest down. When I finally realized I would never be cured, I got angry, and the anger never went away.

I was no longer able to work, so I subsisted on a meager Social Security pension. Luckily, I had served in the Navy and was eligible to receive medical supplies and care from the Veterans' Administration.

After two months of watching me try to do the simplest tasks (dressing, showering, getting in and out of bed), my girl friend just couldn't take it any more and moved back to her parents' house.

Four months after my injury, I began to experience the strange and somewhat painful sensations known as muscle spasms. At first they affected only my feet and lower legs, but soon I had them in all my paralyzed muscles. I was given a drug called baclofen, but even the maximum dosage did not provide much relief. There were plenty of unpleasant side effects, though -- drowsiness, severe headaches, excessive sweating, insomnia, and d-- mouth.

My spasms became more and more violent. After they caused me to fall out of bed, the doctors added 20 mg a day of Valium, then another 20 mg. I was becoming a pharmacological zombie.

There were many other paralyzed patients at the V.A. hospital. Some had been paraplegics for more than 20 years. They told me they had thrown away their prescription spasm medications years ago and now used cannabis instead.

They said it worked better and had far fewer side effects.

I tried it. One cannabis cigarette gave me immediate relief without the debilitating side effects of Valium and baclofen. Everyday tasks like showering and dressing became remarkably easier to accomplish.

This article is extracted from the book, 'Cannabis' by Dr. Lester Grinspoon, M.D. 1993.

Since then, whenever I can find cannabis, I smoke three to four cigarettes a day. I have few or no spasms, and I am spared the need to take 12 very toxic and addictive pills daily.

I have also discovered that I am no longer sexually impotent. The only way I could do that before was by injecting prostaglandin directly into my male organ.

About two-thirds of the paralyzed patients I have met use cannabis to control muscle spasms and pain. Present Drug Enforcement Administration regulations forbid our doctors from prescribing cannabis for us. The government is now waging a war on drugs that in effect targets me and other paralyzed patients.

This is not only unreasonable and unfair, but blatantly immoral. Because we choose to use the most effective and safest drug for our condition, the government unjustly puts us in the same criminal category as heroin junkies.

I am filing an Investigational New Drug Application (IND) with the Food and Drug Administration. It is the same procedure used by several other Americans who have won the right to smoke cannabis legally for medical purposes. I hope my request will be granted. If not, I will continue to smoke cannabis anyway and risk being unjustly arrested, prosecuted, and jailed.

Chris Woiderski notes that cannabis enabled him to conquer impotence. One report in the medical literature confirms this effect. A 30-year-old patient had suffered from MS for six years and was wheelchair-bound because of muscle spasms and ataxia. He was fully impotent. and he was unable to achieve success. When he smoked cannabis, both his motor-functions and his sexual functions improved immediately. His sexual life is satisfactory now.

Once again, many patients have discovered through word of mouth or support groups a medical use of cannabis that doctors are not supposed to tell them about. The odor of cannabis smoke is said to be omnipresent on some V.A. hospital paraplegia and quadriplegia wards. A survey of 43 persons with spinal cord injuries conducted in 1982 indicated that 22 of them were using cannabis for muscle spasms. The percentage has probably increased in the past decade. Yet, again, very little on the subject appears in the medical literature. We have been able to find only one recent study.

In 1990 three Swiss neurologists reported on the treatment of a paraplegic patient with painful spasms in both legs that were being constantly medicated with baclofen, clonazepam (an anti-anxiety drug related to Valium), and codeine for pain. The experiment took place in two stages.

In the first stage the patient took oral THC instead of codeine 14 times over a period of three months. In the second phase he was given either 5 mg of oral THC 50 mg of oral codeine, or a placebo.

The three experimental conditions were each applied 18 times in the course of five months. He continued to take baclofen and clonazepam throughout the experiment.

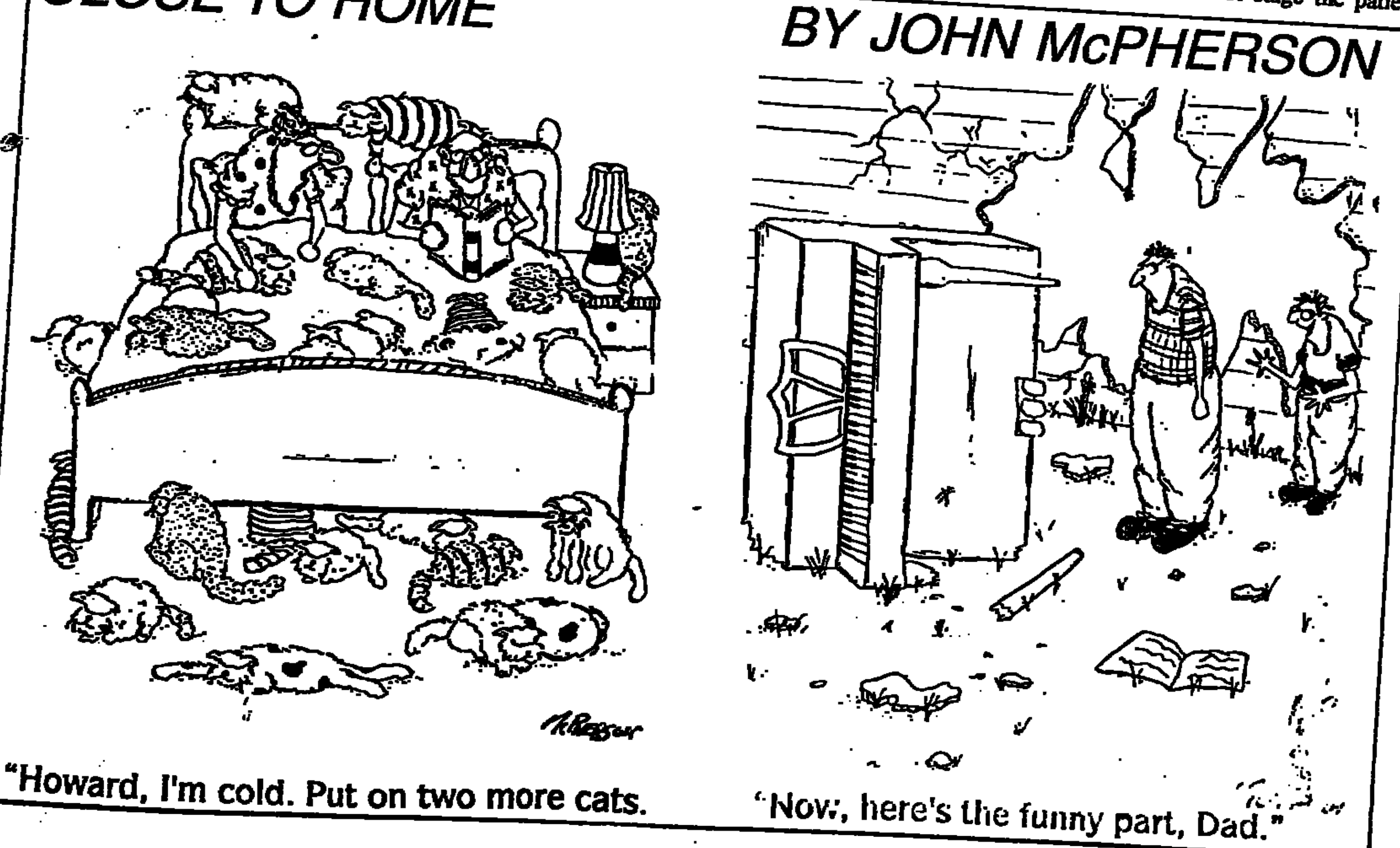
AS compared with placebo, both codeine and THC improved the quality of sleep, and both produced an analgesic effect, but only THC reduced muscle spasms.

Both THC and codeine also improved the patient's bladder control, mood, and ability to concentrate on intellectual work. Since THC was as good as codeine in most respects and better at preventing muscle spasms, the neurologists concluded that it should be considered in the treatment of paraplegics.

Today, three years after the book 'Cannabis' was written, patients can legally buy cannabis with a physician's prescription. Another good news for the patients is that cannabis is not illegal to consume in The Netherlands.

(Courtesy Lester Grinspoon's Cannabis)

(Concluded)



"Howard, I'm cold. Put on two more cats."

"Now, here's the funny part, Dad."

Tumor-Related Protein Could Promote Attack Against Cancer

WASHINGTON — The lowly mouse may produce a powerful new weapon against human cancer.

In a study published Tuesday, researchers at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York said they have found that transferring tumor-related cells from one species to another may trigger a strong natural immune system attack against cancer.



Dr. Alan N. Houghton, chief of clinical immunology at sloan-kettering, said that injecting a protein found on the stof human melanoma cancer cells into a cancer-ridden mouse will cause the rodent's immune system to attack and kill the mouse's own cancers.

Houghton said he hoped to receive federal approval to try the experimental therapy next year on human melanoma patients.

"We will reverse what we have done in the laboratory," he said. "We would put mouse cells into humans."

Houghton said both mice and humans can develop melanoma, a type of cancer originating in pigment-producing cells, usually in the skin. Melanoma cells have on their surface an antigen, called GP75, that is similar to antigens on the surface of normal pigment cells. For this reason, the body's immune system may fail to attack and control the tumor cells.

However, the researcher said that when the GP75 from humans was injected into mice, the rodent's immune system was awakened to the presence of the cancer and mounted a powerful attack.

In their research, Houghton and his team injected 10 mice with mouse melanoma cells, causing them to develop the cancers. They then injected five of the mice with human GP75.

Later, the researchers analyzed the lungs of the animals. Tumors were widespread in those that received no human GP75. But tumors were reduced by 95 percent in the mice injected with human GP75.

Even insect cells could be used to awaken the immune system attack against the cancer, Houghton said.

Cultured insect cells were genetically altered so that they produced GP75 and the protein was then injected into cancer-laden mice.

"We saw a marked decrease in lung tumors among these mice," Houghton said. "The decrease was about two-thirds below that of the controls (cancer-ridden mice without the insect cells)."

The technique actually causes the rodent immune system to attack all pigment-producing cells, he said. For this reason, some of the black mice in the experiment developed white patches of hair. The pigment in animals' eyes, however, was not affected.

After injections of the human GP75 were stopped, the white hair turned black again, but the tumors did not return, he said.

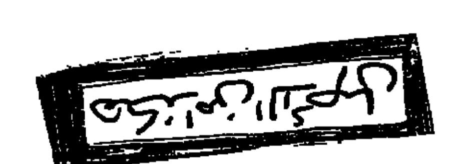
Houghton said a similar phenomenon occurs in humans. Patients treated for melanoma sometimes develop patches of pigment-free, white skin, a condition called vitiligo.

"This is usually associated with a good outcome," he said.

Dr. Herman N. Eisen, a National Academy of Sciences member who reviewed the study, said the research "is an interesting and important set of observations. It demands a very vigorous extension."

Though the study centered on melanoma, Houghton said modified versions of the technique could be possibly be effective against breast, prostate and colon cancer.

(AFP)





Raf Raf Mfg., Trading Co.

Just to inform you;

Chlorine gas has always been one of the items imported by the **Raf Raf company** ever since the establishment of this firm. This gas is widely used in water purification industries, production of washing detergents and paper industries.

The crucial importance of this substance led the policy makers of our company to think about solving some of the problems which in turn paved the way for future activities of **Raf Raf Company.**

One of the questions we had to answer in this process was finding out the reason why the Iranian chemical factories, with their high nominal capacity for production, were unable to provide the country's required annual quantity of chlorine.

Our studies showed that one of the major obstacles for producing this gas is the factories' general problem of providing a coating for the anodes or replacing them, which is very costly and had to be imported from other countries. These problems often delayed the production for rather lengthy periods.

In order to solve this problem, our company conducted wider studies and invested large amounts of money. We now possess the technical know-how are capable of offering all the required services in this regard including production, maintenance and repairing the anodes, among only four other industrial countries in the world.

Raf Raf Company is now planning to help our country reach total independence from foreign technology in this field and take another step toward industrial self-sufficiency.

Our company's constant interaction with the water industries all over country in order to provide their demand of chlorine proves the vital need of purification industries to this strategic product on the one hand, and the serious political will of the authorities to provided heathy drinking water for the whole population of Iran in the remotest parts of the country on the other hand.

Raf Raf Company's water purification facilities can provide germ-free, pure drinking water for cities with a maximum population of 60,000 inhabitants.

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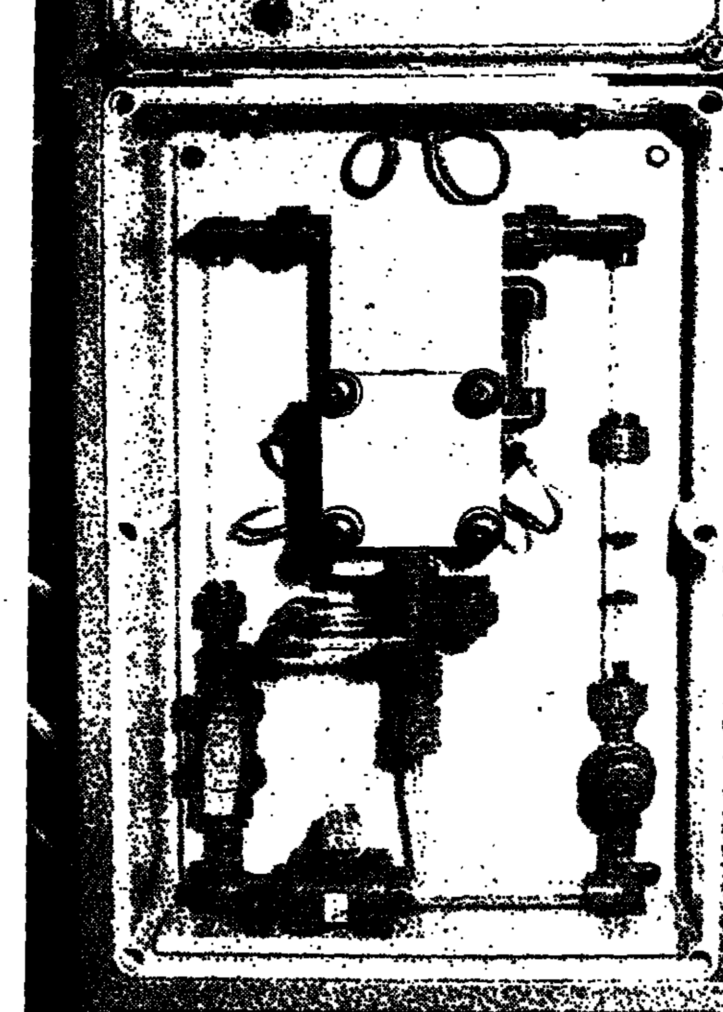
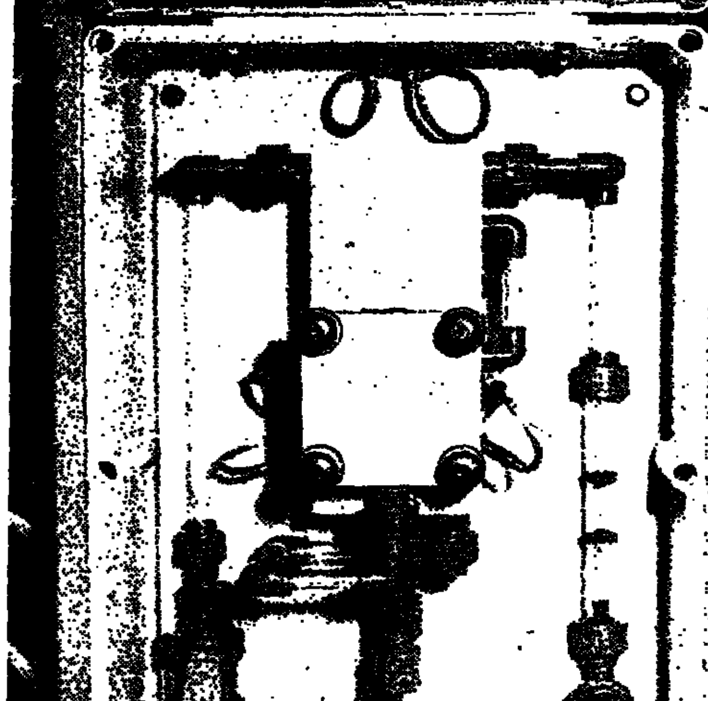
Sazo Cylinder Company

Sazo Cylinder Company (Pvt. Share), affiliated to the **Raf Raf** (Mfg., Trading) **Company**, is proud to announce its success in manufacturing technically advanced cylinders, taking advantage of the experienced experts of **Raf Raf Company's** technical know-how.

The specifications of the cylinders are as follows:

A) Standard qualifications of the cylinders according to ASME and DIN international codes.

B) All the technical data are calculated using the NISA software, which is internationally approved for the purpose.



Germ-free drinking water purification unit

Technical Qualifications:

Volume of the cylinders: 820 liters liquid chlorine gas.

Dimensions: 820 mm. X 2020 mm. (height)

Weight: about 590 Kg.

Quality: Standard steel sheets

heat shock resistance: -50 to +50 degrees Celsius

Tested hydraulic pressure resistance: up to 53 bars or 53 Kg/cm2

Tested pneumatic pressure resistance: 43 bars or 43 Kg/cm2

Besides the above qualifications, all the parts will be separately quality-checked, and the material used will be double checked according to the following chart. the welding points too will be rechecked using the X-Ray.

	C %	Mn %	Si %	P %	S%, Ni,CU	AL %
Analysis of the materials consumed in the tanks	0.2 %	1-1.5	0.2	0.04 %	0.3 %	0.02 % or TGL 22126
Analysis of welding materials	0.1 %	0.3-0.6%	Max 0.03 %	0.03 %	0.2-0.3 %	—

***** ***** *****

One of the very beneficial activities of the **Raf Raf Company** is achieving the complicated technological know-how of producing titanium anodes which used to be monopolized by the advanced countries.

These anodes are used in the electrolysis of sodium chlorure which is one of the stages in the production of chlorine gas and custic soda. Gaining this specialty was very costly for our company, but quite a worthy achievement for our country.

Graphite anodes have been out of fashion for a long time in the world, and titanium anodes with special coating have replaced them in modern technology.

Titanium anodes are superior in many ways compared to graphite anodes and play the heart's role in chlorine producing factories. These advanced anodes need to be repaired after a while of functioning though and need to be re-coated as well. Only a few European and American companies were offering these services at high cost so far.

The **Raf Raf Company** is proud to announce that following many years of tough work, our experts have gained the technical experience to offer these services inside the country. We can now offer maintenance service to anodes of all the chlorine producing factories inside the country and abroad.

The anodes coted at **Raf Raf Company** are now in use at Unit 300 of the Abadan Petrochemical Complex, Neca Power Plant and Tehran Water and Sewage Chlorine Factory. The function of the anodes produced or coated at **Raf Raf Company** has been reported satisfactory at all these plants.

***** ***** *****

Drinking Water Purification Unit

(Germ-Free)

Suitable for water purification at:

- Provinces
- Townships
- Villages
- Residential complexes
- Sports complexes
- factories, industrial townships and complexes
- Sewage purification systems And swimming pools

Capable of purifying from 30 up to 500 cubic meters of water per hour.

Self-adjustment according to the volume of water entry.

Needless of chlorinator capsules and pressurized chlorine cylinders.

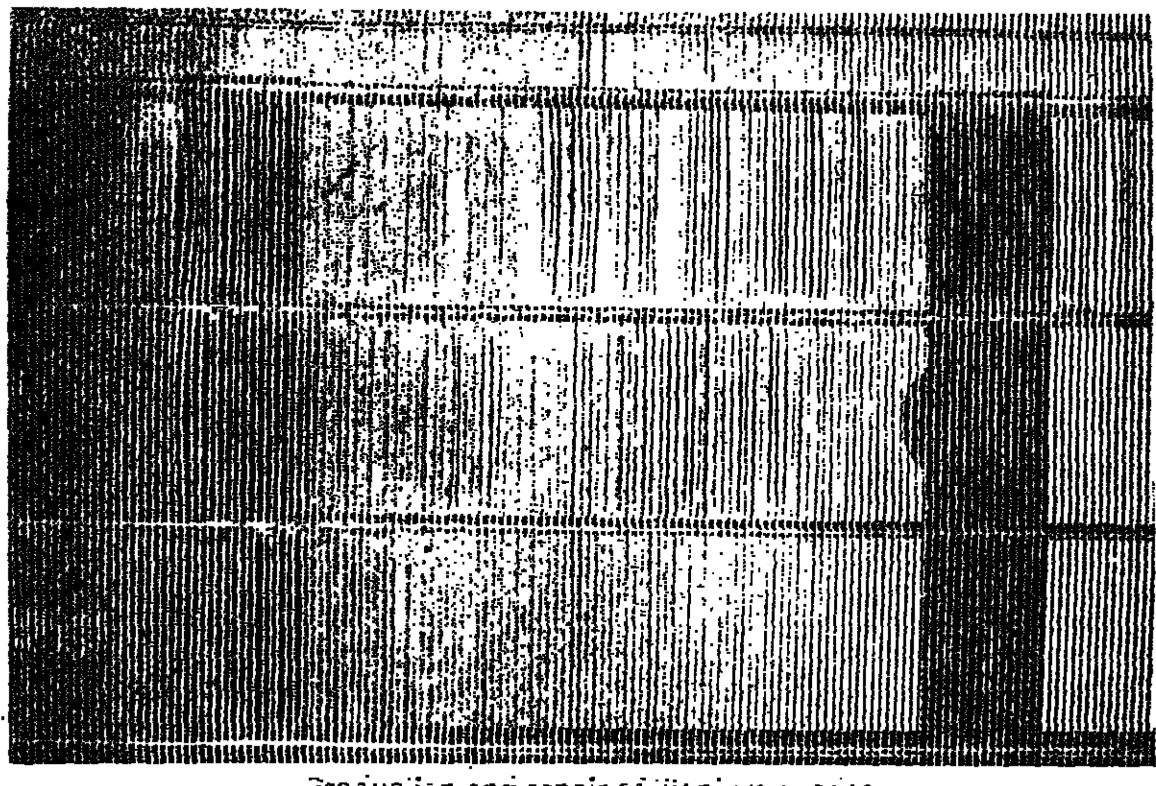
Spare parts, after sales services and maintenance guaranteed.

No gas leakage, low electricity consumption, portable and light weight.

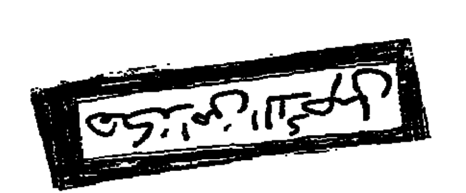
Easily found, cheap- raw materials

Model	TSC-10	TSC-16	TSC-160	TSC-210	TSC-290
Chlorine production capacity per hour	30	65	125	250	500
Acid consumption: ml./hr.	100	200	450	750	1500
Dimensions: Cms.	20X20	22X22	22X22	27X27	35X35
Machine's Weigh: kgs.	10	12	20	32	45


Chlorine gas cylinders


Production and repair of titanium anodes

Address: Number 124, Golestan Bldg. After Sheikh Bahaie Intersection, Molla Sadra St. P. Cod: 14359
Tel: 8881358 - 8034374- Fax: 8880663



Climate Change Threatens Marine Wildlife

Climate change is the newest danger to marine wildlife, which are already threatened by pollution, overfishing, and ozone depletion.



Aberdeen, Scotland: Whales and dolphins -- even those protected from the harpoon face new threats in the modern world.

Scientific research warns of an impending environmental crisis for marine wildlife as the combined onslaught of jpollution, overfishing, ozone depletion and now, for the first time, climate change threatens habitat and food supply.

An Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report -- written by more than 2,000 scientists, approved by the United Nations and endorsed by numerous governments -- has declared that the Earth is heating up and humans are to blame.

The IPCC predicts an average global temperature increase of 1.5 to 4.0oC (34.7 to 39.2oF) during the next century -- a rate unprecedented in the last 10,000 years. Sea levels will rise 15 to 95 cm (5.9 to 37.4 inches).

Climate change fundamentally will alter the underwater world. Shifting patterns of food availability and diminishing habitat will compound the effects of increasing levels of pollution and the proliferation of toxic algae blooms. Unfavorable environmental conditions will foster cetacean disease.

The Problems

Ice-cap Melt -- As global warming chips away at the poles' protective covering, it drastically alters two of the last marine mammal refuges in the world. Scientists anticipate that Arctic ice coverage will decrease by one-third, extending the ice-free season from 41 to 100 days. Low ice levels will open the Northwest Passage (which joins the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans above Canada) and the northern seas route above Russia and Siberia for much of the year, leaving the Arctic Ocean's coastline vulnerable to exploitation by shipping and extraction industries. Receding Antarctic ice will shrink krill habitat and populations -- the backbone of the ecosystem and the exclusive food supply for many whale species.

Ozone Depletion -- UV-B radiation pouring through the polar ozone holes will reduce healthy growth of phytoplankton -- microscopic food for marine life -- by as much as 20%.

Increase in Pollution -- The effect of existing pollution levels may intensify as rising sea levels increase coastal rainfall and manipulate circulation patterns. Surface runoff from heavy rains will drag greater quantities of nutrients, organochlorines and heavy metals into rivers. Overwashed waste sites and sewers will leach toxins, sewage, bacteria and viruses into the seas. And the rising ocean level will destroy wetlands -- Earth's natural water-filtering system.

Increase of Toxic Algae Blooms -- Warmer water temperatures and nutrient loads will encourage red tides -- phytoplankton population explosions that promote bacterial growth, suffocate fish and potentially poison shellfish.

Increase in Disease -- Climate change threatens to foster novel and existing diseases. New viruses, bacteria and parasites will drift to coastal areas and tropical viruses will spread northward to areas without natural resistance.

The Ocean's Heart Stops -- Ocean currents determine both the amount and distribution of cetacean food supply. Ice-cap recession threatens the precise balance established over thousands of years as water moves fom the suface to the sea floor. The entire physical system of the marine environment, upon which all marine life depends, will change. Scientists expect rising cetacean mortalities.

In light of these disturbing findings, the International Whaling Commission must ensure that environmental upheaval enters the equation when planning the organization's program of work for cetacean preservation.

(Third World Network Features ECO Newsletter)

Comets -- Source of Moon Ice

WASHINGTON -- Scientists have said that ice found on the moon was probably frozen residue of comets and asteroids that vaporized as they struck the dark, sunless side of the lunar surface.

The ice was detected in April 1995 by a military spacecraft that used radar signals to illuminate the depths of a giant crater on the moon's darkened South Pole where the ice was found.

The implications of the discovery are far-reaching because a water source on the moon could in the future become a source of oxygen, potable water and rocket-propellant for a permanent lunar space colony, the scientists said.

"For the first time we now know there are water deposits at the South Pole of the moon that are there apparently accessible and ready to use for this purpose -- both to support human life and to produce rocket fuel," said Paul Spudis, a geologist at Rice University's Lunar and Planetary Institute.

Parts of the crater's rim is light by sunlight, which suggests that a mission there could be powered with solar panels, he said.

The discovery, announced by a joint NASA-Pentagon team that is publishing a paper on their finding in *Science*, will be followed up in 1997 by a NASA lunar prospector spacecraft, NASA said.

The lunar prospector will use two neutron spectrometers to measure the amount of hydrogen on the lunar surface and its location, a more direct method of inferring the presence of ice, NASA said.

In the experiment conducted by the military spacecraft Clementine, the experts concluded they had found ice because of the way in which the radar waves were reflected.

"Ice reflects radar waves differently than rock. Rock acts sort of like a smooth surface, like a mirror effectively. It bounces it back with one bound," said Steward Nozette, an expert from Lawrence Livermore Laboratories who conceived the experiment.

"Ice is very transparent and is what is called a low loss material. The radar wave penetrates into there, and actually gets bounced around and rattled around and then bounced back like a roadside reflector," he said.

The Clementine, a 500-pound unmanned craft loaded with sensors, made four passes of the moon's polar areas with radar -- two in the north and two in the south.

On one of the passes it picked up the radar signature of ice in the permanent shadows of a giant crater on the South Pole.

The other pass of the South Pole did not focus on permanently shadowed and found no sign of ice, nor did the passes of the North Pole, which was found to have fewer permanently shadowed areas.

The finding appeared to confirm earlier speculation by scientists that ice may have collected in the permanent shadows of lunar craters formed by comets, according to the scientists.

Spudis rejected the notion that the ice could be indigenous to the moon, citing samples collected by the Apollo missions that show the moon to be extremely dry.

Instead, he theorized that the water was brought to the moon in the form of comets and asteroids, which are made up predominantly of water ice that vapoizes on impact.

"As the comet hits the moon that water vapor hangs around the moon as a cloud," he said.

In the moon's thin atmosphere it would dissipate, but the extremely low temperatures that prevail in permanent lunar shadow would act as a "cold trap".

"So over time, you could accumulate a significant amount of water ice in the dark area," he said.

The scientists estimated that the amount of ice accumulated in the crater was equivalent to that of a small lake, but they said that estimate was conservative.

If one could shine a light into the crater, they said, one probably would see not a frozen pond, but ice crystals in the interstices of lunar dust grains.

Meanwhile according to another AFP report from Washington, NASA has said that it will use its lunar prospector spacecraft, to try and verify Pentagon reports of ice on the moon.

The spacecraft, to be launched in September 1997, will use "two neutron spectrometers to measure the amount of hydrogen on the lunar surface and its location," the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said in a statement. (AFP)

Radiologist Sheds New Light on Britain's "Elephant Man"

CHICAGO -- A British radiologist who studied the skull of Joseph Merrick, Victorian England's famous "elephant man", has shed new light here on the disease which caused his disfigurement.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) here, Dr. Amita Sharma, a radiologist at the Royal London Hospital, said the disease which caused Merrick's grotesque appearance was a rare disorder, unrecognized in his days, and not the so-called "elephant man disease".

"Possible causes for Merrick's disfigurement have been discussed at medical meetings and in medical journals since 1884 and many diagnoses have been suggested," she said. "The results of an autopsy performed at the time of his death and samples of skin and other tissues that were preserved after his death were destroyed in the World War II."

She said studies she and colleagues conducted at the Royal London Hospital where Merrick lived and where his skull has been kept since his death in 1890 suggest that his disorder was most likely caused by Proteus Syndrome, an extremely rare, noninherited disease in which a malfunction in cell growth triggers an overgrowth of bone and other tissues in the body.

The disease was first recognized and named less than 20 years ago and fewer than 100 cases have been reported around the world.

"In our imaging studies, we saw a combination of abnormalities, including thickening and overgrowth of certain bones, and bony outgrowths and enlargement of the skull -- all reported features of Proteus Syndrome," Sharma added.

For 100 years following Merrick's death, "elephant man disease" or neurofibromatosis -- a genetic disorder of the nervous system seen in one in every 4,000 live births -- had been touted as the most widely held theory.

In recent years, Proteus Syndrome has emerged as an alternative diagnosis, which Sharma's study appears to bear out.

Because of his grotesque appearance -- thickened bones and an enlarged skull with the circumference of his head measured at 36 inches (90 centimeters) compared with 24 inches (60 centimeters) for a normal man -- Merrick was rejected by society and was exhibited at freak shows and attacked by angry mobs.

In 1886 a surgeon befriended him and took him to the London hospital where he found sanctuary until his death at the age of 28.

Merrick's life was the subject of a play and a movie, both named the elephant man. (AFP)

Focusing on the Goal

Sustainable Improvement of the Quality of Life

Part 1

This is Bamako today: our houses are too small, and there are too many people in the houses. People deposit their garbage outside containers, and the smell of dead sheep and dogs thrown in ditches irritates people. Children go to the toilet on other people's properties, and there are not enough street lights.



Time for a New Focus: Sustainable Improvement in the Quality of Life

We have seen that the pursuit of economic growth has become a dominant concern the world over. Development is equated with, or even held to be synonymous with, economic growth only: it is thus evacuated of all social implications. This focus has by now overshadowed all other considerations, such as equity, environmental sustainability, employment, and social cohesion.

The very word 'development' has not been very helpful. It implies movement towards a goal. The contrast found between 'developing' and 'developed' countries suggests that the goal is a certain plateau of affluent consumerism — one already reached by industrialized countries and yet to be attained by the others. There is no such plateau. Human reality is multidimensional, and is not to be squeezed into the single dimension of economic growth. Clearly the time has come for an alternative, more holistic, approach to attaining our policy goals.



The Commission proposes, therefore, that the concept of sustainable improvement in the quality of life become the central focus for policy-making in all countries. This would be an ongoing, dynamic task, leaving no room for *status quo* politics or excuses for inaction.

A limitless increase in the number of people, or of material goods per person, is impossible. But quantity and quality diverge somewhere along the horizon of what is possible. And while quantity and increase in quantity can no longer be the overriding precepts guiding the processes associated with human activity, quality can always be deepened and reinforced. 'We need a transition from quantity to quality', Gro Brundtland maintains. This is why it is possible to imagine sustained improvement in the quality of life (which, in fact, could be practically limitless). Indeed, sustainable *improvement* in the quality of life could become the touchstone of both industrialized and developing countries.

In seeking sustainable improvement in the quality of life, highest priority should be accorded to meeting the basic, minimal survival needs of the population; and this should not be negotiable. At poverty level and below, quantity is of the essence for both incomes and services. Indeed a certain, minimal quantity is essential before there can be meaningful quality of life. Above survival level, however, quantity is significant to people in so far as it contributes to quality of life — helping to reduce discrepancies and close gaps. (Pursued to excess, quantity may not be sustainable at all and may lead to deterioration in the quality of life.)

Sustainability need not limit the horizons of developing countries to mere satisfaction of the most basic needs, or limitations on the processes inherent in industrialization and consumption. Nor should sustainability assume a stable, final state for the industrialized countries, or perhaps the continuation along a path towards 'always more'. Sustainability is not a ceiling to be imposed on the many nor an open space reserved to a limited few. It allows, on the contrary, for progression towards ever-improving quality in all of life — for nations as well as individuals.

There are many elements to the quality of life. They are based on the secure enjoyment of health and education, adequate food and housing, a stable and healthful environment, equity, gender equality, participation in everyday life, and dignity and security. Each of these elements is important in its own right, but lack of fulfillment of even one of them can undermine the subjective sense of 'quality of life'.

Quality of life cannot, furthermore, be 'summed up' or 'averaged out', so that the defining and measurement of quality of life is far from easy. Much of what people call their quality of life is culturally defined. Even within a single society, views concerning what makes for quality of life differ widely among its subcultures and its individuals.

So the notion of quality of life may always retain an element of subjectivity as well as of cultural diversity. Within a single culture or one of its components, reduction of one's material wants (or even greed) may be sought as a rite of passage. In another subunit of the same society or in another society altogether, such abnegation would be seen as not only foolish but as a kind of self-torture. A dichotomy between the selfish and altruistic orientations exists, it is true, in most cultures. So the near-universality of such ethical tension, even among today's fast-changing belief systems and values, provides the foundation for the Commission's choice of sustainable improvement in quality of life as a central policy goal.

(To be contd)

Racism Threatens to Divide Australia

SYDNEY — An upsurge in racism inspired by independent MP Pauline Hanson is threatening Australia's social cohesion, Human Rights Commission president Sir Ronald Wilson warned.

"Racism is the single most potentially divisive human rights issue confronting Australians today — a threat to social cohesion and to the ties that have bound us until now," he said in a speech to mark international Human Rights Day.

He used the occasion to make a strong plea for tolerance, saying Hanson's maiden speech to Parliament in September had stirred the worst outpouring of racism in the 10-year history of Australia's Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission.

"In the past year virulent expressions of racism towards Asian people have merged with an appalling level of denigration of indigenous Australians," he said.

In her maiden speech to Parliament, Hanson said Australia was in danger of being "swamped by Asians" and called for a halt to all immigration.

Wilson's remarks coincided with fresh evidence that the race debate had caused serious damage to Australia's image in Asia.

A poll by one of Asia's top business magazines, the Far Eastern *Economic Review*, shows most senior Asian executives see Australia as less attractive for investment because of the race row and believe Prime Minister John Howard's government has mishandled it.

The poll was reported on page one of the Australian which said it confirmed anecdotal evidence and widespread media reporting that the impact of the debate inspired by Hanson, had been "uniformly bad for Australia's image."

However, Howard told Parliament that Australians should not pay much attention to the poll.

"I have said repeatedly and my collegues have said repeatedly that we value very highly the contribution of Australians of Asian descent to our community," he said in answer to a question from opposition leader Kim Beazley.

Wilson told reporters he saw the debate as a call to Australia to defend the values it holds dear, adding: "I think that's happened.

He also welcomed federal Parliament's recent resolution reaffirming Australia's commitment to racial equality and a nondiscriminatory immigration policy.

But he said that without action "the resolution will not stand as an affirmation of this country's values — it will stand as a benchmark of our hypocrisy".

"We must strive for a society where respect for racial equality is so deep-seated that occasional irresponsible outbursts, whether in Parliament or elsewhere, go nowhere, because no one is listening," he said.

But Australia still had "a good deal of work to do" rebuilding relationships in the Asia-Pacific region damaged by the race debate. *(AFP)*

Hong Kong Forces Home 243 Vietnamese

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong authorities deported 243 Vietnamese boat people as part of a campaign to clear all detention centers before the handover of the territory to China next year.

The 103 men, 60 women and 80 children left for Hanoi on two chartered flights, a government spokesman said.

The group brought to 8,415 the total number of boat people forced home on "orderly repatriation program" flights since November 1991.

China has demanded that all Vietnamese detention centers be cleared before Hong Kong returns to Beijing's rule.

As a result of the declining population of Vietnamese boat people, which now stands at less than 10,000, the authorities have decided to close the main camp, the Whitehead Detention Center, on January 3.

Whitehead was opened in January 1989 when the number of Vietnamese asylum seekers stood at about 11,000. *(AFP)*

Security Council Expected to Authorize SFOR by Weekend

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council expects to authorize the NATO-led Stabilization Force, and renew the mandate of international police in Bosnia, by the end of the week, Western diplomats said Monday.

"Contact Group" members on Bosnia — Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States — are drafting an omnibus draft resolution which would authorize the new force due to take over from the larger Implementation Force (IFOR), as well as renew the police mandate which runs until December 20.

But the 15-member Security Council is expected to await the outcome of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels on Tuesday and Wednesday before adopting the resolution, the diplomats said.

NATO officials say the new force to be effective from December 20 will be called SFOR, or Stabilization Force, comprising 31,000 troops and with an 18-month mandate. It is to replace IFOR which had a total 60,000 soldiers at its peak.

Western diplomats said that while the mandate of the 1,700 international police in Bosnia will remain the same, some tasks such as handling police misconduct will be highlighted following a decision by last week's Bosnia Conference in London.

The international police are not armed and are essentially on a training mission.

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Monday approved a report concerning the police mandate renewal which is to be transmitted to the Security Council, UN sources said. He is expected to recommend a one-year extension.

Western diplomats did not rule out separating the SFOR authorization from the police mandate renewal for reasons of timing, but said that an omnibus resolution was preferred. *(AFP)*

Amnesty Denounces Zaire's Clampdown on Human Rights Organizers

LONDON — Amnesty International accused the Zairian authorities of clamping down on human rights activists operating in the Bukavu area in the east of the country.

The London-based Human Rights Watchdog said that since September, many human rights militants had been killed, attacked or imprisoned or had "disappeared", either at the hands of members of the Zairian security forces or of the armed opposition Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL).

It said in a statement released here that it had received many alarming reports on the difficult conditions that the activists faced in their efforts to investigate and publicize cases of human rights abuses committed by both the Zairian authorities and armed groups.

Amnesty called on the international community to defend and support the human rights activists. *(AFP)*

هکذا من الأصل

Troubled Waters

In the last 25 years, on average floods have affected more than 56 million people worldwide every year. Some 12,000 people a year are killed by flooding and approximately 3.5 million a year are left homeless.



Sole survivor of an area of Guiyang where houses collapsed. Guizhou province, China.



Former rice field, DPRK. Floods prompted the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to make an unprecedented appeal for funds to the international community in 1995. It estimated that the rains had affected five million people, leaving half a million homeless and injuring hundreds of thousands. The most devastating impact of the 1995 floods in DPRK was on food security since flooding spoiled almost 40 percent of the country's limited arable land.



Unpa Bridge, DPRK. Heavy rains began again in North Korea in mid-July and, in addition to crops and homes, they quickly damaged industrial and mining facilities, roads, railways, bridges and a reservoir that had been under repair. The North Korean Red Cross, with the support of the federation, undertook to feed 130,000 people among those left completely destitute from the 1995 floods and responded immediately to the excess rainfall this year.

(Courtesy Red Cross, Red Crescent)

Tears Still Flow for Missing Filipinos

MANILA — In the quarter century her son Charlie has been missing, Geronima del Rosario has gone to army camps, police stations, funeral parlors and morgues looking for him.

When the phone rings, she thinks it may be a call from him. When someone knocks on the door, her first thought is: Has he come home? Del Rosario, now 76 years old, joins the world this week in commemorating Human Rights Day. She is one of hundreds of mothers and wives in the Philippines whose sons and husbands have vanished. Charlie, a university professor, failed to come home one day in March 1971. He is among more than 1,000 Filipinos on the list of Human Rights Watchdog Amnesty International who have disappeared following armed conflicts in the Philippines.

On the list are leftist rebels, unionists, peasants, journalists, church workers, teachers, and a priest.

Known as "Desaparecidos" — the disappeared — they were suspected to have been abducted by security forces during the harsh rule of the late Ferdinand Marcos, as well as later when Marcos was succeeded.

"When you called I felt my hair stand on its end because I thought you might know Charlie," Del Rosario said. "I keep thinking he is in the mountains."

"Even now I still cry. A mother's tears never stop flowing," she added, her voice cracking.

The Philippine Human Rights Commission concedes abuses continued even after Marcos was overthrown in 1986 but says only a few "isolated cases" had occurred since Ramos became president in 1992. "We are investigating uniformed personnel linked to cases of disappearances but collecting evidence takes time because they happened a long time ago," a commission spokeswoman said.

Although decades may have passed, the families of many "Desaparecidos" still hope they will find their missing loved ones — even if in unmarked graves. It was only recently, Del Rosario said, that she had begun to accept Charlie might not ever come home.

"If he is still alive, he would not have let all this time pass without letting us know where he is," she said.

The passage of time has not eased the hurt.

"This is the pain time cannot heal," said Linda Malicdem, 38. She has not seen her husband, a leader of a squatters group, since nine gunmen seized him in a Manila suburb in October 1987.

Danny Deldoc was seven years old when his father was last seen alive in May 1984 outside a Manila hospital where he had brought a wounded comrade for treatment.

When the Deldocs heard later that soldiers had killed a man whose description matched Danny's father, they rushed to the morgue.

"When my mother got there, she was told someone else had claimed the body," Deldoc, now 20, said between sobs.

Retired aircraft engineer Ruben Resus has not seen his son Noli, a church worker, since he left for a northern town in February 1977 to help villagers being harassed by dead..." "I want proof my son is dead because there is always a certain amount of doubt. It's different if you see the remains with your own eyes."

Relatives of "Desaparecidos" who have formed a group called FIND (Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances) last week showed reporters boxes of what they said were skeletons of five victims — four men and a woman. Retrieved from unmarked graves in mountainsides and river banks, the remains were the first concrete evidence of summary executions by state agents, FIND said.

Most of the skulls bore what appeared to be bullet holes.

An examination of the bones, of metal fragments embedded in them and of personal items retrieved from the graves, combined with the accounts of informants, would give a picture of how some "Desaparecidos" died, forensic expert Jaime Bailen said.

"People say dead men tell no tales but by putting together our findings in the laboratory, we come up with a fully documented picture of how they ended up in these graves," he said. "In effect, they are saying that dead men do tell tales."

(Reuter)

Killer Apartheid Cop Granted Amnesty, Freed

CAPE TOWN — Killer apartheid policeman Brian Mitchell, serving a 30-year jail term for his role in a 1988 massacre in which 11 people died, has been granted amnesty by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Truth body's amnesty Committee said in a statement on Tuesday it was satisfied that the killings were associated with a political objective and had ordered his release.

Prison authorities said an elated Mitchell was freed late Tuesday from the prison in Pietermaritzburg, former capital of Kwazulu-Natal Province, where he had been held since April 1992.

He was met, according to prison official Colin Van der Merwe, by his ex-wife, who divorced him while he was in prison. It is believed the couple plan to make an attempt at reconciliation.

Mitchell is the fourth person and the first former member of the apartheid security forces to be granted amnesty by the Truth Commission since it began its work in April.

The commission, which is probing human rights abuses committed during the apartheid era, is compelled to grant amnesty to perpetrators who make full confessions and show that their deeds were politically motivated.

The former police captain headed a death squad which launched an attack on a home in Trust Feed rural area outside Pietermaritzburg on December 3, 1988.

Although he did not take part in the actual attack, Mitchell identified the target and gave instructions to lower-ranked policemen to carry out the attack.

At the time he believed the house was occupied by activists of Nelson Mandela's then-outlawed African National Congress (ANC), which police regarded as enemies of the apartheid state.

In fact those killed were mourners attending an all-night vigil and, were supporters of the ANC's archrivals and the organization at the time being supported by police, the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Mitchell was sentenced to death in 1992 for the killings but, when the death sentence was abolished in South Africa last year, his sentence was commuted to 30 years in jail.

He was one of the first former security force members to appear before the amnesty committee, telling it he had been following orders "from the top" in ordering attacks on anc targets.

He said he deeply regretted the deeds and offered to make restitution to the families of the victims.

The amnesty committee said in its statement that Mitchell had complied with all the requirements to qualify for amnesty.

"(Mitchell's) offences were part of the counter-revolutionary onslaught against the ANC ... and (he acted) within the course and scope of his duties as an officer in the South African police force," the committee said.

It noted that four police constables who were convicted with Mitchell were granted amnesty and released in 1992 under a deal between the ANC and the former apartheid government in which all political prisoners were freed.

The deal smoothed the way for an eventual negotiated political settlement in South Africa.

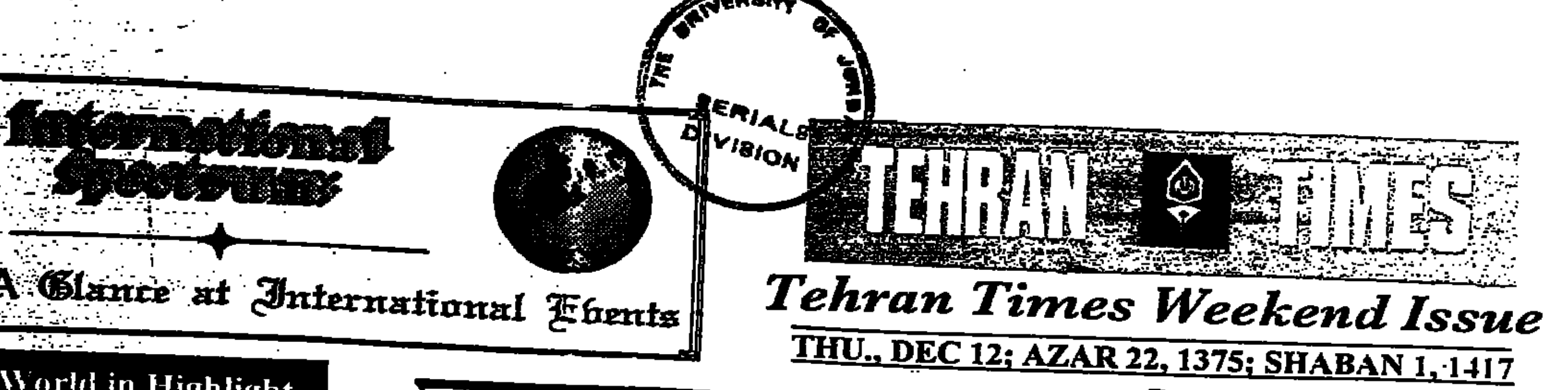
(AFP)



Filipinos

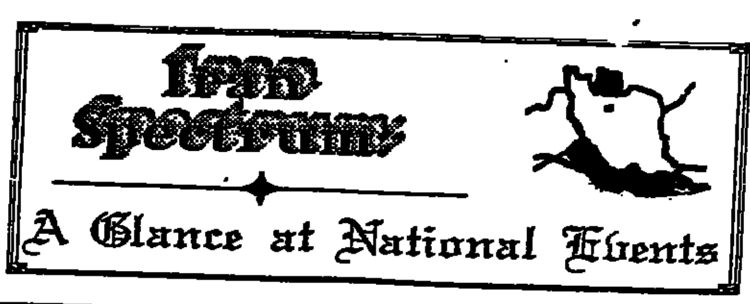
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Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU., DEC 12; AZAR 22, 1375; SHABAN 1, 1417



The World This Week

World in Highlight

Wednesday, December 4

UN Says It Is Powerless to Stop Bosnia-Wide Ethnic Cleansing

The United Nations reported an 'upsurge in evictions' taking place across Bosnia, as the London Conference reviewing Bosnia's Dayton peace plan got underway.

Miners' Strike Defense Sacking Row Hit Russia



The Kremlin was looking for solutions to nationwide strike by 400,000 unpaid coal miners and a growing political row over the sacking of the general commanding Russia's land forces.

Thursday, December 5

Clinton Names Albright as Secretary of State



President Bill Clinton nominated tough-talking UN Ambassador Madeline Albright as the first woman secretary of state in U.S. history to lead a new national security team that will include a Republican as Defense Secretary.

Friday, December 6

Rwandan Hutus Massacred in Zaire, Refugees on Move



The mass graves of at least 80 massacred Rwandan Hutu refugees have been found in eastern Zaire's rebel-held Goma region, witnesses who went to the scene said.

Aung San Suu Kyi Under 'Virtual House Arrest'

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is under 'virtual house arrest' a senior executive from her National League for Democracy (NDL) announced.

Constitutional Court Certifies New Constitution

A new constitution guaranteeing equal rights in South Africa finally won approval from the Constitutional Court.

Spanish Woman Gives Birth to Sextuplets

A Spanish woman who drew blanket press coverage after conceiving eight babies has given birth to four boys and two girls by caesarean section.

NASA Scrubs Florida Landing Due to Runway Fog



NASA ruled out Space Shuttle Colombia's planned landing at the Kennedy Space Center after a thick fog blanketed the shuttle's Florida landing strip.

One Killed as Babri Mosque Protest Turns Violent in India

One person was killed and 14 others injured when police fired at Muslim demonstrators protesting against the razing of the 16th century Babri Mosque by Hindu zealots four years ago.

Saturday, December 7

Japan Mudslide Claims Seven

Seven bodies had been found and another seven people were missing as rescuers searched into a second freezing night after mudslides buried two construction sites in central Japan.

Remains of World War II German Pilot and Plane Exhumed

The remains of a World War II German pilot and the cockpit of his plane have been exhumed in a small village in north-west France, 52 years after the air raids over Normandy in June 1944.

Tom and Jerry Cartoon Characters on Business Promotion Visit to India



Hanna Barbara's Tom and Jerry cartoons, the bright colored cat and mouse duo from the United States are on their business promotion visit to India.

Swede Threatened to Kill With Pet Snake

A Swedish man was arrested after he threatened to kill his neighbor with his pet poisonous snake following a row. The snake owner was arrested after his neighbor called the police and the snake was taken to a nearby zoo.

Sunday, December 8

Clinton Working on New Economic Team

After naming his national security team for his second term in office, President Bill Clinton set to work lining up his new economic team.

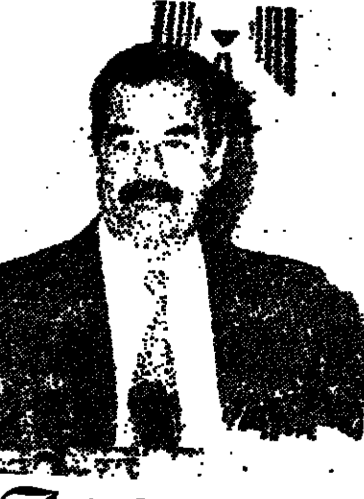
Monday, December 9

Swiss Parliament Oks Enquiry Into Nazi Gold

The Swiss Parliament approved the setting up of a special commission of enquiry into holdings deposited in swiss banks both by the Nazis and their Jewish victims.

Tuesday, December 10

Iraq Starts Oil Flowing



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein opened the taps at a pumping station in northern Iraq on Tuesday to start Iraqi oil flowing abroad for the first time in six years.

Iran in Highlight

Wednesday, December 4

Safavi: Iran's Role in Maintaining Security in Persian Gulf Pivotal

Deputy Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), Brigadier General Rahim Safavi said that if the American soldiers stationed in the Persian Gulf take hostile measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran, their dead bodies will be handed over



to the U.S. government, adding that Iran is adequately capable of maintaining the security in the Persian Gulf also ensuring safe outflow of oil from the region.

Reyshahri: No Relations with America



The Secretary General of the Society for Defending Values of the Islamic Revolution (SDVIR) Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri said that "as long as the U.S. maintains its hegemonic nature and continues to hatch plots against Iran, we cannot establish friendly relations with that country."

Thursday, December 5

Hatami Leaves for Eternal Abode



Ali Hatami, the outstanding Iranian director of the admired films, Kamal-ol-Molk, Mother, Delshodegan and the Iranian TV serial of Hezar-Dastan, Ali Hatami died after long suffering from terminal cancer. Thousands of mourners attended the funeral ceremony to give him the final rites.

Iran's Polymer Production to Increase

Industries Minister Mohammad-Reza Nematzadeh said that Iran's polymer output is expected to reach one million tons by the end of the



second Five-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan (1995-99).

Friday, December 6

President: Access to Public Education, Token of Social Justice

President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said that preparing the ground for every strata of the



society to have access to education at all levels is an important token of social justice.

Emami Kashani Warns Against Cultural Aggression Targeting Iranian Youth

The substitute Friday prayer leader, Ayatollah Emami Kashani addressing the worshippers at the congregation at the campus of Tehran University warned against the Western cultural assault. He stressed the need for Iranians to counteract the cultural plots of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution particularly the United States, which are aimed at perverting the Iranian youth.

Saturday, December 7

PTT Minister Inaugurates Mideast Largest Data Network

The Middle East largest data network became operational in the presence of the Minister of Post, telegraph

Sunday, December 8

Iran Beats Thailand in Asian Cup Tournament



Iran beat Thailand three by one in an attempt to try to qualify for quarter finals. If Iran beats Saudi Arabia, it can then qualify for the quarter finals.

Monday, December 9

Social Justice Crucial Objective of Islamic Government

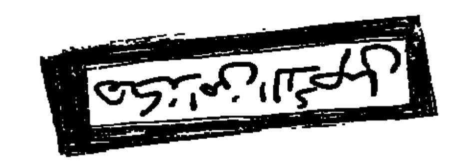


President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani accompanied by a group of government officials and Muslim ambassadors met the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

Tuesday, December 10

President: Enemies of Humanity Have Turned to Investment in Media

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Tuesday cautioned that the enemies of humanity have increased their investment in mass media to undermine faith in God and urged Muslim journalists to counter this global plight.



Gain an Extra Hour Every Day

Finding time to enjoy life is becoming harder and harder. According to a *Harris survey*, Americans' leisure time dropped more than 27 percent between 1973 and 1993. Over the same period, the average work week jumped from 41 to 50 hours.

Yet some of the world's busiest people are able to develop rewarding careers and also make time for family and leisure activities. Here is their best advice, plus that of time-management experts:

1 *Use Your Peak Hours Wisely.*

When is the best time to undertake important tasks?

Dr. Nathaniel Kleitman, a University of Chicago physiologist, documented that normal body temperature can vary as much as *three degrees during the day*. These patterns correlate with the rise and fall of your working efficiency, mental alertness and feeling of well-being.

Simply lounging in bed in the morning can rob you of productive time. "Long ago I learned a trick that saves me 20 to 50 minutes a day," one busy man told me. "I simply get out of bed when I wake up. Lingering only delays the inevitable, and you aren't getting any real rest anyway."

People tend to be most alert in late morning and midevening. Afternoon brings an increase in sleepiness, with a "trough" in efficiency occurring around 2 or 3 p.m. After body temperature peaks between 6 and 8 p.m., many people experience a decrease in alertness.

Use your high-efficiency hours to tackle difficult jobs or engage in creative thinking. For low-efficiency time, concentrate on reading the newspaper, cleaning up or sorting your mail. By adapting to your mental condition, you can accomplish more in less time.

2 *Make a Plan.*

Would you drive to an unfamiliar destination without a road map? Time-management experts agree that the most productive minutes of your day are those devoted to planning ahead. Just 20 minutes of organizing can save an hour of extra effort remembering what must be done. "Don't try to carry your life around in your head," says Lucy Hedrick, author of *Five Days to an Organized Life*. "Write things down so you can free you brain for more creative pursuits."

Make a to-do list every day. If *you have fewer than ten items*, use numbers to prioritize your list. If you have more, group the most urgent tasks under "A", less important under "B" and least vital under "C". Or rank items with different colored highlighters.

In less than ten minutes, New York City attorney Christine Beshar, a mother of four, lists all household tasks to be completed each day. Through good organization, Beshar is able to manage her family and professional responsibilities, and also stay involved in church activities and a college board of trustees — and do everything well.

3 *Prioritize Paperwork the Same Way.*

According to Dianna Booher, author of *Cutting Paperwork in the Corporate Culture*, American businesspeople spend many hours writing, reading, filing and retrieving paperwork. What's more, Booher adds, they never again look at much of what they file. To solve this problem, train yourself to focus only on vital paperwork.

Sort out key papers and categorize them. *To Do* (something to act on or delegate), *To Read* (information to digest as soon as practical), and *To File* (a document for future reference). Put the *To Do* pile front and center and place the two other piles out of sight. Keeping only major items on your desk prevents time-consuming mental side trips.

4 *Discourage Drop-Ins*

Many working people like to claim their door is always open. Yet the person who welcomes everyone who drops in will get plenty of conversation but won't accomplish much.

The trick is to develop inoffensive ways to protect yourself from minute-stealing interruptions. David E. Levy, an international public-relations consultant, uses a variation of the open-door policy by keeping his door ajar. The message is clear: he really doesn't want you to come in, but you can if it is important.

Another way to handle unexpected drop-ins: apologize for your crowded schedule, then set up a meeting time when things will be quieter, or during a low-efficiency period.

5 *Tame the Telephone.*

There is a story of a farmer whose telephone constantly rings as he talks to a passer-by outside his door. The visitor is distracted, but the *farmer only shifts his pipe*. "Pay it no mind," he says. "I put that phone in for *my* convenience."

Hardly any device can save more minutes — or waste so many more — than the telephone. To short-circuits long-winded callers, says R. Alec Mackenzie, author of *New Time Management Methods*, set a time limit, then signal the end of your conversation with a phrase such as "Before we hang up..." You can save even more time by not taking every incoming call.

Before *you* make a call, keep its purpose clear. If you need to cover more than one subject, jot them down, then stay on track. Busy people appreciate directness. To avoid "telephone tag," keep a record of when people you call regularly are least busy. Even better, make appointments to call *important contacts*.



6 *Work While Waiting.*

When waiting is inevitable, have some reading matter handy. A briefcase or folder can house a treasure-trove of letters, reports, periodicals and clippings.

7 *Take a Break.*

Making the best use of every moment doesn't mean pushing yourself relentlessly. Breaking up your routine can help you work faster and better. A catnap at the middle of the day, for instance, can be energizing. Exercise can also clear your mind and relax your body. Even ten minutes of relaxation with alternate shallow and deep breathing, says Lester R. Bittel, author of *Right on Time*, can psyche you up or calm you down. If time pressures are prolonged, Bittel suggests taking a vacation day or a long weekend.

To help us all again an extra hour every day, a clockmaker in Dallas has created a timepiece measuring each minute at 57.6 seconds. The 2.4 seconds borrowed from each minute add up to an extra 60 minutes at the end of each day. You can accomplish the same thing, however, by simply managing your time more efficiently — and *you'll reap the full* benefits.

(Courtesy the Reader's Digest)

Entertaining in Style

Lasagne in a Hurry

You will need ....

Preparation time
15 minutes

Cooking time
1 hour

Oven setting
350oF; gas mark 4

For the Bolognese sauce:
15 oz. can minced steak with onion
8 oz. can tomatoes
3 level teaspoons tomato puree
¼ level teaspoon mixed herbs
1 heaped teaspoon sugar

For the cheese sauce:
1 oz. butter
1 oz. flour
¾ pint milk
½ level teaspoon made mustard
¼ level teaspoon nutmeg
6 oz. Gruyere cheese, grated
8 oz. lasagne
1 tablespoon salad oil

Put minced steak in a pan with tomatoes and juice, tomato puree, herbs, sugar and, if liked, a good shake of garlic powder, salt and pepper to taste. Bring to boiling point, simmer for 5 minutes then put on one side.

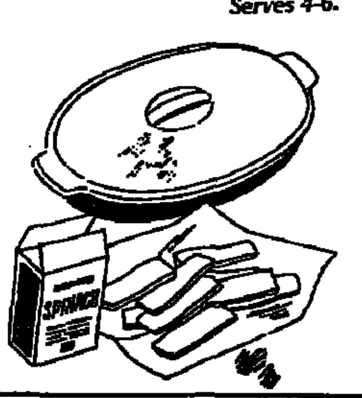
Make cheese sauce. Melt butter in a pan, blend in flour, then milk and bring to boil, stirring constantly. Simmer for 3 minutes until thick. Stir in 5 oz. cheese, mustard, nutmeg, seasoning. When cheese has melted remove pan from heat.

Bring a large pan of salted water to boiling point. Put in lasagne a piece at a time, add oil and simmer for about 12 minutes or until lasagne is tender. Rinse with cold water and drain on a clean tea towel. Layer up lasagne, cheese sauce and bolognese sauce in a shallow, ovenproof casserole, finishing with a layer of cheese sauce. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake in a moderate oven for 40 minutes until top is pale golden.

Serves 4-6.

QUICK TIP

Lasagne is a ribbon type pasta. It varies in width from 1½ to 3 inches. The green lasagne is flavored with spinach.

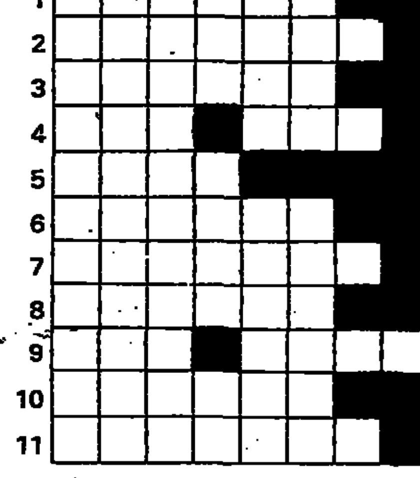


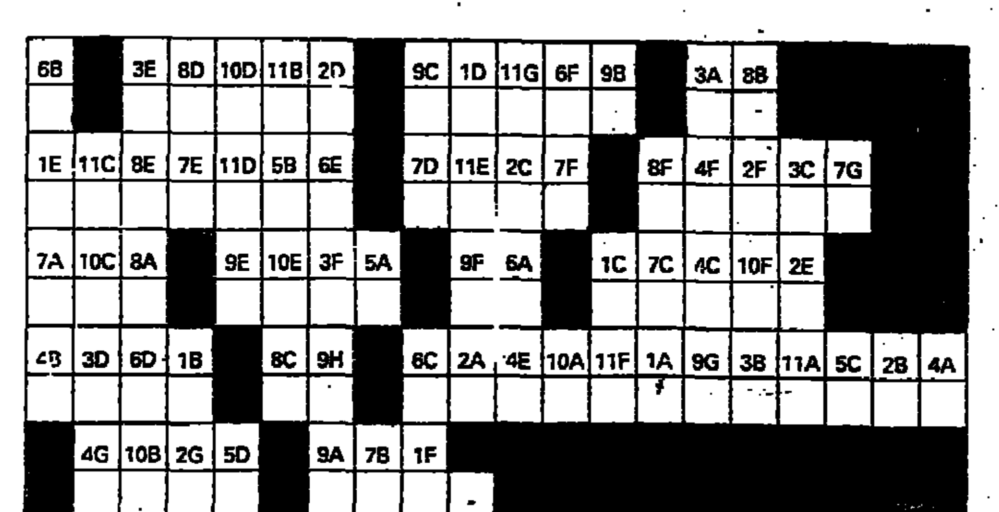
ACROSTIC

Solve the clues, entering your solutions in the corresponding rows of the top grid. When this is correctly completed, column A (reading downwards) will give the name of an American poet. *Now transfer all the letters from the top grid to the cross-referenced squares of the lower grid*, and you will be able to read a quotation from this person's works.

CLUES

1. Bounty, recompense
2. Late
3. Yellow-skinned fruit
4. Flightless bird * This instant
5. Downpour
6. Cause to scratch
7. Moving freely, liquid
8. Cure
9. Peculiar * Two plus three
10. Broad spade
11. School employee





(Solution Next Thursday)

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

DECEMBER 12, 1996

Feature

Facets of Countries

The Most Wired Town in America

A small Virginia town is leading the way to a whole new age.

In Blacksburg (pop. 35,000), a tidy town on the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, you can find out the price of toothpaste at Wade's Foods, apply for a credit card at First Union Bank, hear a sound bite of the local quartet, view pictures on display at Art of the Sol gallery, ask the police to keep an eye on your house, check the start time for church services or share your views on local funding issues with your county supervisor—all on line.

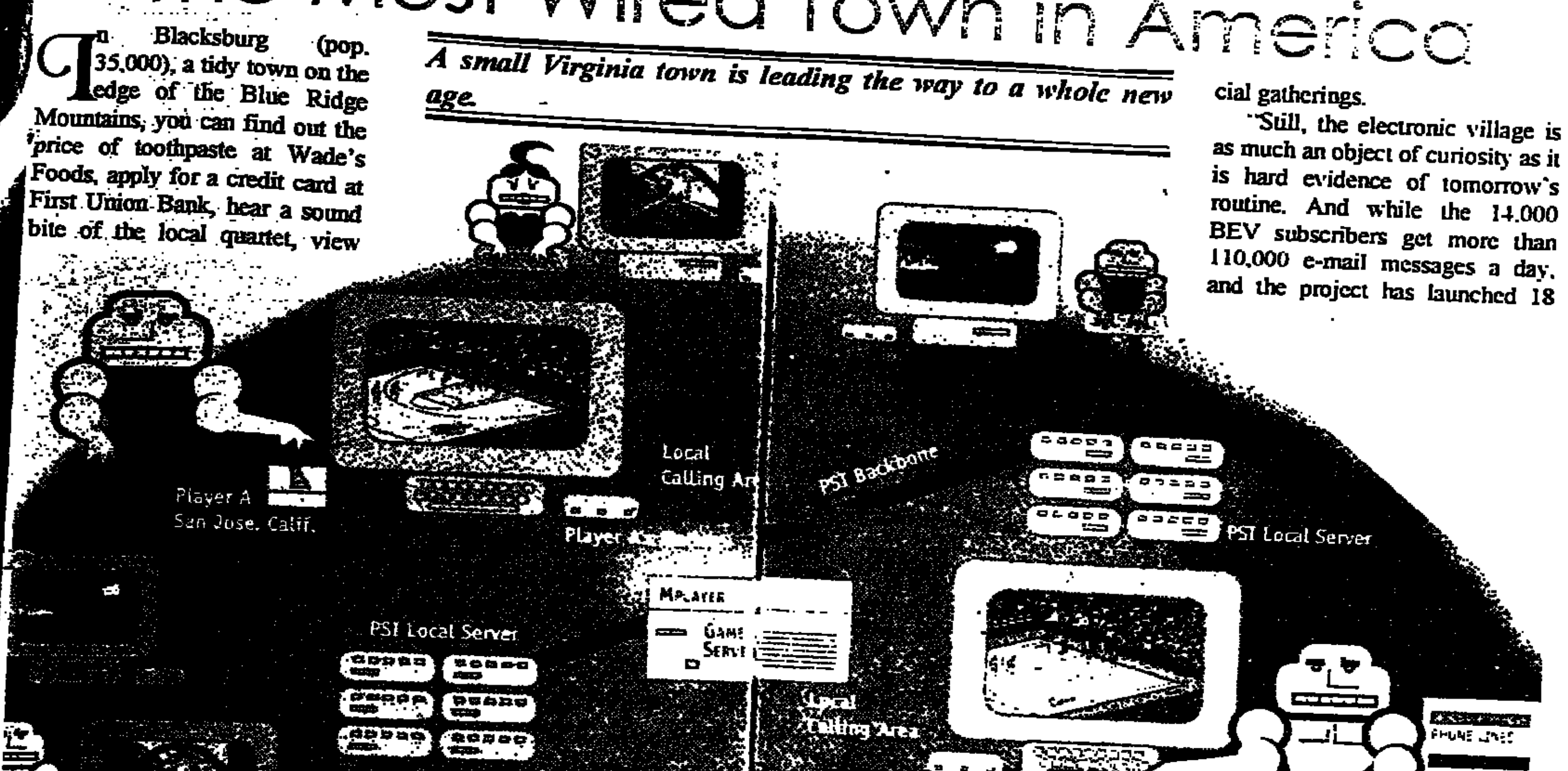


Illustration of Internet games.

When eight-pound, eight-ounce Cameron Kenneth Gaylord was born last December, his dad, Clark, did what any other proud parent in Blacksburg, Va., would do. He went to his computer and typea, "It's a boy!" Then he electronically zapped the joyous message to an on-line blletin board, where it could be read by some 14,000 users in the <u>Blacksburg Electronic Village (BEV)</u>.

Blacksburg is the most wired town in the United States. Postcard perfect, it looks like any other thriving community in southwestern Virginia—prettier, perhaps, because of the presence of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, whose 24,000 students make up 68 percent of Blacksburg's population.

Inside, however, Blacksburg is unique. The BEV project—an experimental allliance involving the town, Virginia Tech and Bell Atlantic—has put 40 percent of the population on the Internet, the global information network, and given 62 percent access to electronic mail. The French newspaper *Le Monde* has pegged Blacksburg as "*La capitale du tout-communicant*" ("the capital of total communication"). German nationl radio has reported on the phenomenon. And the Japanese are so intrigued that the town is on the itinerary of several tour groups. "They come to Disney World, California and Blacksburg," says Susanne W. Huff, who trains local employees to work with BEV.

It's no accident that Blacksburg is ground zero for this electronic revolution. The local mix—a technologically sophisticated academic community and town leaders who have been active in attracting research-and-development companies—was exactly what Bell Atlantic wanted when it searched for a prototype community. Today, 500 off-campus apartments are wired for direct Internet access. For others in town, all it takes is a computer with a modem, a trip to the Blacksburg Electronic Village office—the "physical" one—to sign up, and a small monthly fee for unlimited access.

So far over 200 businesses are on the electronc village mall, accessed through BEV's Internet site. In just one month last winter, 3996 electronc visits were paid to Raines Real Estate Inc.'s computer site—far more than a year's worth of visits to its office.

Two years into the BEV project, Bell Atlantic deems it a success, citing a "tremendous demand" for the new telecommunications services offered through BEV. Virginia Tech believes BEV will bring more high-tech business to town. Most townspeople are behind it.

To understand the extent of the Internet's reach, just look at what Blacksburg residents were doing one recent Sunday afternoon.

*In Bogen's Bar and Restaurant, a Virginia Tech interior-design student played solitaire (she plays up to two hours a day) on Bogen's computer. She was waiting for a friend—who also uses the computer —to play backgammon with people around the world via the Internet.

*At the library several men were seated at a computer station that provides Internet access for those who lack it at home. One man was chcking out help-wanted ads in six out-of-town newspapers. Another was shopping for an attorney. A third was "trying to figure this whole thing out."

If the Blacksburg experiment provides a glimpse of the future, it is also providing immediate insights. For one thing, none of the project's originators anticipated the ardent interest among the town's senior citizens, who make up 40 percent of the noncollege BEV users. "Most people think senior citizens are afraid of technology," says Andrew Cohill, the Virginia Tech architecture professor who heads the BEV project, "but we've seen the opposite. They're the most active and vocal". Blacksburg seniors have even organized a system for tutoring one another in computer literacy.

Gentry, a retired U.S. Army artillery officer who co-edits BEV's page for seniors, extols the virtues of e-mail. "You can get up at four in the morning, send e-mail and answer questions others have posted so they can read it when they wake up." He says the electronic meeting ground has become more diligent about arranging social gatherings.

"Still, the electronic village is as much an object of curiosity as it is hard evidence of tomorrow's routine. And while the 14.000 BEV subscribers get more than 110,000 e-mail messages a day, and the project has launched 18 new local businesses—such as those that design Web pages—all the electronic communicating may simply involve residents who already were inclined to chat or do business electronically.

Indeed, the real questions are: Can computers improve the quality of people's lives? Does more time spent in front of a computer mean less face-to-face interaction?

Cliff Stoll, author of *Silicon Snake Oil: Second Thoughts on the Information Highway*, sees the drawbacks. "Being proud of being the most wired town in America is a little like saying, "Our community has the most television watchers in America," he says. "Might it be we are being sold a bill of goods—that we would be better served getting along with one another than getting along with our computers?"

His concern is shared by Joseph McVoy, a family therapist with Virginia Highlands Health Associates in Blacksburg. Pointing out that in California's Silicon Valley psychologists have treated patients who were spending many hours a week on-line, McVoy worries that computer dependency may eventually take its toll on Blacksburg's families as well. For instance, a husband who isn't available much, McVoy says, will be even less available if he's hooked on the 'Net.

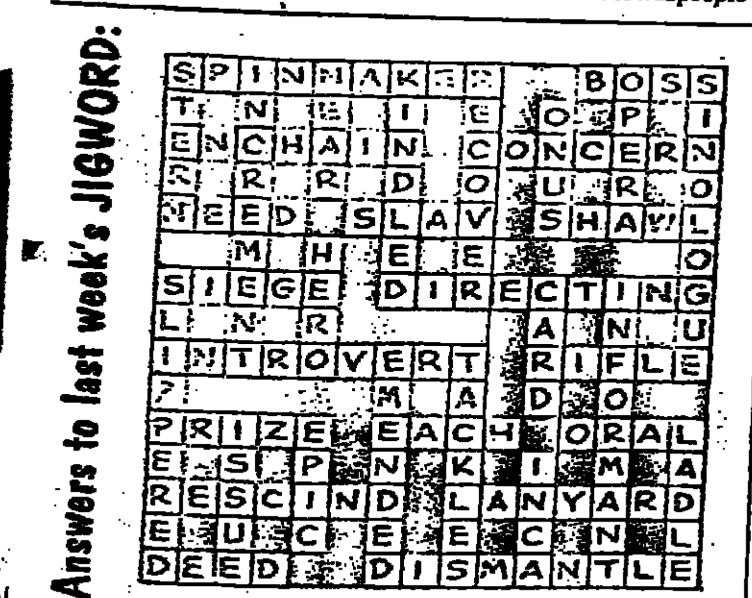
And yet of 219 BEV subscribers who responded to a recent survey, 185 said they believe being on-line has brought people closer together. Some people say the online connection has even led them to meet neighbors they ordinarily wouldn't get to know.

Carter Elliott, a retired law enforcement and intelligence officer, says he and his wife have met scores of local people through BEV. "The way the 'Net has opened up the outside world is like a fairly tale," he says.

Indeed, say proponents of the BEV project, the Internet way of life is especially suited for Blacksburg and other small communities. "People in rural areas see the Internet as a way of overcoming geographical isolation," Cohill says.

(Courtesy of Reader's Digest, July 1996.)

Answers to last week's JIGWORD:



Travelogue

Hua Hin and Cha-Am

PART II

As you head south from **Hua Hin** to **Pranburi** and **Prachuab Khiri Khan**, a natural spectacle unfolds before you. The faceted mountain range of 300 peaks, primeval and jagged, resemble the angular humps on a sea dragon's back as they rise over 300 meters to grasp the sky. This is **Khao Sam Roi Yod** National Park.

This park consists of 100 sq km of limestone towers, fossil caves, and coastal marshes. Within the chiseled crags and ledges live leopards, barking deer, porqupines, leaf monkeys, and the elusive seros, a rare cross between a mountain goat and an antelope. Flying fauna dominates the park as an incredible 885 species of birds have been identified here. Bird watching is best between the months of November and February when over 200 species of the trans-continental flyers have escaped the freezing temperaturs of China, Siberia, and northern Europe The park's year-round feathered residents include herons, crab-eaters, egrets, waders, blue-winged kingfishers, and the sea eagle or osprey.

The national park headquarters is located 38 km from Pranburi town, off the Phetkasem highway. The dirt road from Pranburi to the park headquarters is rough but passable, and public transportation is available from Pranburi Square.

There are several outstanding features in the park, but when it comes to caves, **Sai** and **Kaeo Caves** are underworld time capsules. These ancient caverns have petrified waterfalls, and monstrous limestone domes with dangling stone tentacles, resembling prehistoric jellyfish. **Phraya Nakhon Cave** is a park favorite where a royal pavilion was built in honor of King Rama V's visit in 1896. It is located 500 meters from the fishing village of **Ban Bang Pu** inside the park.

For pure adventure travel into the jungle interior on a riverboat cruise up the **Khao Daeng Canal**. The views are spectacular and you can hire a boat from Ban Bang Pu Village. As the river winds past serrated pinnacles, exotic birds dart across the water, alligators lurk on the muddy riverbank, landwalking fish crawl ashore, and the very rare tiger-striped catfish prowls below the surface. An explorer should not miss visiting **Sam Roi Yod**, "the land time has forgotten."

Pranburi is the sleepy seaside resort located outside the national park and 20 km south of Hua Hin. The Borkaew Resort is 3 km from town and has beach cottages that can accommodate visitors.

If lake fishing, picnics, and crisp, clean air are what you enjoy, then plan a visit to the **Pranburi Irrigation Dam**, a lake-size reservoir stocked with bass and trout.

South of Pranburi is the surreal wasteland known as Ban Khun Tanot. Here, a traditional Thai fishing village exists where nature refuses to. The expansive, decomposed marsh of clay and ooze has thousands of charred trees standing like skeletons in this lifeless land. **Ban Khun Tanot** is best recognized as one of the locations for the Kampuchean war film "The Killing Fields."

Twenty-five kilometers north of Hua Hin lies the seaside resort of Cha-am. The peaceful charm of this fishing village, and its clear sea and sparkling beaches, are best known to Bangkok residents who have been building summer houses and weekend bungalows here for more than 20 years. But progress at Cha-Am has been unhurried and it still retains its original serenity. As a result of its low profile, the cost of food and accommodations here is less than at other resorts, unless you stay in 5-star hotels.

An **Cha-Am Village**, the main road skirts beside the shore for five kilometers, with the hard sand beach on one side, and bungalows, houses, restaurants, and shops sprinkled unobtrusively on the other. The countryside is flat and there are many tree-shaded lanes to investigate, and the absence of traffic makes cycling the perfect way to enjoy the scenery and serenity of the area. Bicycles built for one, two, and even three, are available for rent.

An especially interesting bicycle ride is along the beach road north from town as it winds through the active fishing village and crosses a stream, over a narrow wooden bridge, to a wat. **Wat Nerancharararama** is located 1 km past the bridge and the lagoon. The large Cambodian-style stone temple has many resident monks, and the 6 armed, white sitting Buddha serves like a 4-meter tall beacon for fishermen to guide them to the safety of the lagoon. Around the lagoons are picnic tables shaded by tall casuarina pine trees where one can find seashells, sandpipers, and peace of mind. (Courtesy of *Guide to South Thailand*, 1992.)



Off the coast of Prachuab Khiri Khan.



CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Abbas Kowsari

1969 - Greece under fire on charges of violating human rights withdraws from Council of Europe before that nation can be expelled.

1979 - A group of generals led by Gen Chun Doo-Hwan stage an internal army coup and seizes power.

1989 - British begin forced repatriation of Vietnamese refugees from camps in Hong Kong.

1990 - Bangladesh's deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad is put under house arrest

1991 - Boris Yeltsin wins landslide approval in Russian legislature for his new Commonwealth of Independent States.

1992 - European Community leaders agree on a deal intended to keep Denmark and Britain in step on the road to union.

1993 - President Borish Yeltsin wins approval of his new constitution but extreme nationalists and Communists make a strong showing in Russia's first multiparty elections since the 1917 revolution.

1994 - The Brazilian supreme court acquits former President Fernando Collor de Mello of corruption charges.

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1921 - United States, Britain, France and Japan sign Washington Treaty to respect each others' rights over insular possessions in Pacific.

1944 - In World War II, Japanese cruiser Nashville, killing 133 crewmen.

1950 - South Africa refuses to place South-West Africa under United Nations trusteeship.

1967 - Military government in Greece crushes counter-coup, and King Constantine flees to Rome with is family.

1969 - Britain announces agreement to withdraw all its forces from Libya within next few months.

1972 - U.S. Apollo 17 astronauts, on last U.S. moon mission, unveil plaque — dedicated to peace-on lunar surface.

1974 - Egypt demands 50-year freeze on Israel's population as condition for peace in Middle East.



Flurry at the Sheep Dog Trial

By Eric Knight

The wind came clear over the great flat part of the moor near Soderby. The gusts eddied, tearing away wisps of smell – the smell of men packed in knots, of sheep, of trampled heath grass. The size of the flatland made the noises small – the sharp barks of dogs, the voices of men speaking in deep dialect.

The men of the different sections stood in separate knots. Those from Polkingthorpe were ranged about Sam, their eyes on him trustingly, half fearfully, as if they were a little awed by what they had done, and the size of the bets they had made from village loyalty.

"Now, Sam," Gaffer Sitherthwick mumbled slowly, "tha's sure she can do it? For Ah've put up one pound again' two pound ten that she's the winner."

"Now hold up, Gaffer," Capper Wambley wavered. "Tha must remember she's never been really trained as a shepherd; but what Ah say is, the way Sam's trained her this past week she'll do owt he tells her best she can. And best ye can do is best, as any man'll agree."

"Thankee, Capper," Sam acknowledged. "Now, lads, if ye don't mind, Ah'd like to give her sort of secret instructions – and calm her down."

He led Flurry away from the knot of men, though she looked as though she needed no calming down. She was sedate and confident in her gait. At a distance, he knelt beside her and pretended to be brushing her coat.

"Now tha sees how it is, Flurry," he said. "There's t'four pens at each corner. In each is a sheep. Tha has to go to each one, take t'sheep out, and then put all four into t'middle pen ... Now thee watch this one -- this is t'Lancashire entry, and she was champion last year. And she's no slouch."

"See how t'shepherd holds his crook like to make a door for t'middle pen, Flurry? Now that's all Ah can do to help. Ah can point or signal, but Ah can nobbut make a sort of angle to help wi' t'sheep at t'middle pen."

There was a burst of applause, which meant that the Lancashire dog had set the record time for the trial.

"Come on, then, Miss Smartie," Sam said. "It'll be us."

Sam heard his name being announced. He walked with Flurry to the ring. He knelt beside her.

"Now remember -- no biting sheep or tha'll lose points."

She gave him a look that should have withered him.

"Go," said the judge.

Away Flurry sailed, her belly almost flat to the ground. She went from pen to pen, chivvying the sheep into a compact knot. She brought them to the center pen, driving at them adeptly so that before they could stand, sheep-wise and stubborn, and wonder where they were going, they were safe in the center pen. Then she sat at the gate, her tongue lolling out, and a burst of applause said she had made good time.

Sam hurried over to his mate. He rushed to Capper Wambley, who owned, without doubt, the finest watch in the village.

"How about it, Capper?"

The old man cleared his throat importantly and stared at his watch.

"Well. T'road Ah make it -- wi' varry exact computations – is that there ain't a split-second difference between thee and Lancashire. But mind ye -- that's unofficial, o' course."

So the chums rocked in impatience as the last tests were run off, and then they stood in the common hush as the judge took off his hat and advanced.

"First place," he announced, "is a tie between Joe Pettigill's Black Tad and Sam Small's Flurry, as far as time is concerned. But the judges unanimously award first place, on the basis o' calmer conduct in handling t'sheep, to Pettigill's Black Tad fro' Lancashire."

Of course, Sam and his friends were quite put out about it, and Gaffer Sitherthwick almost had apoplexy as he thought of his lost pound ... Thus it might have been a black day in the history of Polkingthorpe Brig had not Pettigill decided to gloat a bit. He walked over past the chums and said triumphanlty, "Why don't ye all coom over to Lancashire and learn reight how to handle a tyke?"

This was, of course, too, too much for any Yorkshireman to bear. So Sam came right back at him. "Oh, aye?" he said.

It wasn't a very good answer, but it was all he could think of at the moment.

"Oh, aye," echoed Pettigill...

"Ah admit tha's got a fine bitch there, Pettigill, but ma tyke ain't used to sheep. But if it came, now, to a test o'real intelligence — well, here's five pounds even fro' me and ma mates says we'll win at any contest tha says."

"Then thy good money goes after thy bad," the Lancashire lad said.

So it was arranged that an extra test would be held, with each man picking his own test to show the intelligence of his dog. Mr. Watcliffe a well-to-do sheep dealer who was one of the judges, agreed to make the decision as to which dog was best.

The moor rang with excited chatter as the news spread, and everyone scurried around to lay bets. The Polkingthorpe men all got side bets down — except the Gaffer. He declined, morosely, to bet any more. So the contest got under way. Pettigill and Sam drew straws to see which dog should show off first.

Pettigill got the short straw and had to start. "Now, lass," he said to his dog, "over there Ah've put a stick, a stone, ma cap, and a handkerchief. Will some sporting gentleman call out which one Ah should bid her bring first?"

"T'stick!" a voice called.

"Tad. Fotch me yon stick," Pettigill ordered.

Away raced the dog and brought it. One by one, as requested, the champion brought back the correct articles, dropping them at its owner's feet. The men burst into applause, as it ended. Then up stepped Sam. He knelt beside Flurry and spoke so all could hear.

"Lying i' front o' Joe Pettigill," he announced, "is four articles. When Ah say 'Go!' ma tyke'll first take t'cap, go to the far sheep pen, and drop it inside there. Next she'll take t'stick, and drop it at the feet o' t'biggest lad on this moor. Third she'll take t'stone and drop it at t'feet o' t'second-best dog trainer on this moor. Finally, she'll take t'handkerchief —" and here Sam beamed floridly — "and drop it afore t'handsomest and knowingest man around these parts. Now ista ready?"

Sam looked at Flurry, who jumped to her feet and leaned forward as if held by an invisible leash. The crowd almost moaned in a sort of excitement, for they had never heard of a dog that could understand such a complicated set of commands.

"Go!" said Sam.

Away sailed Flurry, veering past Joe Pettigill's feet and snatching up the cap on the dead gallop without stopping. Going in the water-smooth racing stride of a collie, she went out to the far pen, dropped the cap, and streaked back. She snatched the stick and loped toward the crowd. The men parted to let her through. She quested about, until she saw Ian Cawper. She dropped it at his feet and the men moaned astonishment.

Back she went for the stone. She picked it up, and then stood, as if at a loss. The men drew in their breath.

But Flurry merely looked up at Joe Pettigill, walked forward one step and dropped the stone again.

The men roared in approval.

"That means Pettigill's second-best dog trainer," they said. "But now for Sam!"

Flurry now had the handkerchief. She was walking to Sam, who stood, waiting triumphantly, Flurry came nearer to his feet, and then began to circle round him.

"She's forgot," the men breathed. "She don't know what to do wi' it."

Sam looked sown, with a sort of agony in his eyes, for Flurry was trotting away from him — going away with the handkerchief in a hesitating sort of way. She was looking about her. She was walking to the center.

And then everyone saw what it was.

Flurry was going up to Mr. Watcliffe, the judge. She dropped the handkerchief at his feet, walked back to Sam, and sat properly at heel.

This time there was no cheering, for in that entire crowd it seemed as if a ghost had passed and lightly touched the back of every man's head, touching low down toward the neck where the short hairs grow, a touch that left a tingling sensation.

All one could hear was the voice of Mr. Watcliffe. "Why, bless my soul," he was saying. "Bless my very body and soul. She's almost human. Bless my soul."

Then he seemed to waken to his responsibility.

"Ah judge that the test has been won by Sam Small's tyke. If he will step forward, Ah'll give him the wager money."

This broke the spell. Sam went forward to collect, and the Polkingthorpe men went round with a roar to garner in the side bets they had made in the crowd. Everyone was in pocket except Gaffer Sitherthwick, which was also something to make that day a memorable one in Polkingthorpe's history. Seldom, if ever, did the Gaffer come out on the wrong side of money matters.

Together the chums all started home. Joe Pettigill stopped them and spoke like a true sport.

"That's a champion tyke tha has there, lad," he said.

"Thankee," said Sam, with the customary modesty. "We nobbut won by luck."

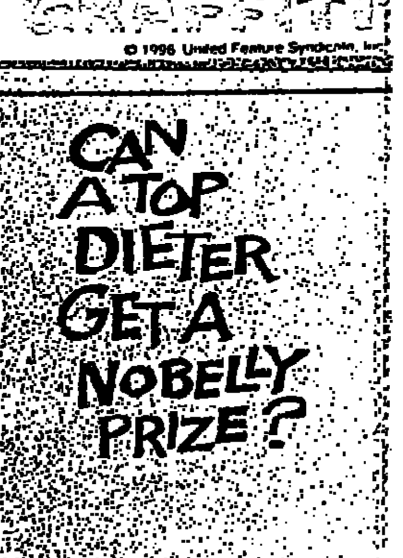
"But how about ma cap up there?" the Lancashireman asked.

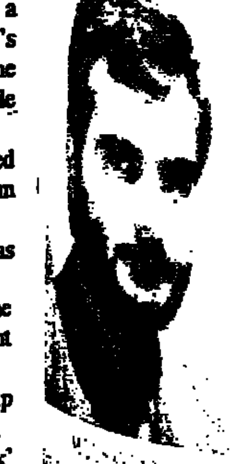
"Nay, Ah nobbut said she'd tak' it,' Sam pointed out. "It'll cost these another five pound to have her bring it back."

Pettigill frowned, then grinned in appreciation.

"Here, Tad," he said. "Go up and get ma cap." And away sailed his own fine dog.

Away, too, went Sam, with all the men slapping him on the back, applauding his wit, skill, acumen, and perspicacity. They streamed over the moor toward Polkingthorpe Brig to tell the story of their mighty triumph.





ANIMAL CRACKERS

